

FOR MINORS: THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE GOING TO COURT

When you meet with your lawyer, she or he will explain the court process to you. For now, to prepare for court, you should think about your answers to the questions below. **PLEASE complete this form before meeting with your lawyer.** Keep this questionnaire and any other clinic materials regarding your pregnancy options (sonogram results, brochures, etc.) in a safe place where you can get to them when needed. You will be expected to bring all this paperwork with you when you meet with your lawyer.

You may be asked the following questions in court by your lawyer, the judge, or the guardian ad litem. (A guardian ad litem is someone the judge may appoint to participate in the hearing in addition to having an attorney represent you.) Your answers will help convince the judge that you understand all of the options available to you with respect to your pregnancy, you are mature enough to make important decisions about your life, and that notifying a parent about your abortion is not in your best interest. (Again, your lawyer will explain all of this to you.) Some of these questions may seem personal or inappropriate or make you feel uncomfortable. It is important though that you think about your answers to these questions because you may be asked, and expected, to answer these questions in court.

What is your date of birth?

Do you go to school? YES NO
If YES, what grade are you in?

How do you do in school? What kinds of grades do you get? What classes do you like best?

Do you think you will graduate from high school? YES NO
If YES, when?

What do you think you will do after high school? Do you want to go to college or vocational school? Will you work? What kind of work do you want to do?

If you are not in school now, what grade have you completed? Why did you leave school? Do you plan to go back to school sometime?

What are the top three reasons why you can't ask at least one of your parents for consent for your decision? (If your parents are deceased or missing, please go to the next question.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why do you want an abortion? Is anyone pressuring you to have an abortion? If so, who?

Do you know what the procedure is for the abortion that you would have according to your stage in pregnancy? YES NO

Describe it in writing below.

Describe the possible risks or complications of this type of medical procedure.

Have you identified which clinic you will go to for your abortion? YES NO

Have you talked to anyone about going with you when you have your abortion? YES NO

Who do you want to go with you? Who will drive you to the clinic and back?

Do you know how you will pay for the abortion? How?

If you have any physical problems after the abortion, whom will you contact for help? What has your clinic instructed you to do if you experience complications?

A person may experience a number of feelings after an abortion: relief, sadness, peace, anger, gratefulness, guilt, confidence, doubt, depression, renewed energy, etc. If you experience negative feelings that affect you greatly, what do you plan to do? Whom will you talk to? How will you take care of yourself if you are feeling sad?

Do you have a job? YES NO

If YES, what do you do? Why are you working? Was your decision to get a job yours or your parents'? What do you like about your job?

Have you ever had a job in the past? YES NO

If YES, what type of a job? What were your responsibilities?

Have you ever baby-sat for family members or other children? YES NO
If YES, how often? Do you like babysitting?

Are you involved in any activities, clubs, or sports after school? YES NO
If YES, what are they? Are you a leader in any of these activities?

Do you do any volunteer work? YES NO
If YES, what kind? What type of responsibilities do you have?

Whom do you live with?

What kind of contact do you have with your mother? If you have no contact, explain why.

What kind of contact do you have with your father? If you have no contact, explain why.

If you don't live with one parent, how is your relationship with him/her? How is that parent's relationship and communication with the parent or guardian with whom you live?

Do you know if you have any medical problems that could make your pregnancy more difficult? If so, what are they? Whom have you discussed this with? Are you taking any medication?

Have you ever been treated for a mental illness? If so, what was the diagnosis and when were you treated? Do you think that you have a mental illness? Are you taking any medications?

Have you talked to anyone (friends, relatives, teachers, counselors, or other adults) about your pregnancy? If so, who? What did they say?

Does the male involved in your pregnancy know that you are pregnant? What was his reaction? Does he know about your decision to terminate your pregnancy? If you told him, what was his reaction? Does he support your decision?

Have you ever discussed with your parents or guardians that you are sexually active?

YES NO

If so, what did they say?

Have you ever talked to your parents or guardians about what would happen if you became pregnant as a teenager? YES NO

If so, what was said?

What do you think your parents would say if they found out that you are pregnant?

What do you think that they would say if they found out that you want an abortion?

Do you have any brothers or sisters? How old are they? Who takes care of them? Do you talk to them about personal problems?

What type of responsibilities do you have at home? Do you take care of your parents or other family members?

What is life like at home? Do you get along with your parents or guardians? Do you talk to them about your day? Do you talk to them about any personal problems?

How have your parents or guardians reacted to you in the past when you came to them with a problem? When you've had a crisis situation? When you've been in trouble?

What was the worst punishment you have received from a parent?

How have your parents or guardians reacted to any of your brothers or sisters who came to them with a problem? When they/he/she have been in crisis situations? When they/he/she have been in trouble?

How did you first learn that you were pregnant?

Did you take a pregnancy test? YES NO
If so, when and where?

Have you talked to a doctor, a nurse, or a counselor about your pregnancy? YES NO

Have you had a physical exam to confirm your pregnancy? YES NO

Have you had a sonogram or an ultrasound? YES NO
Stage of pregnancy? _____weeks

Do you have any religious beliefs that abortion is not okay? YES NO
If so, can you be at peace with your decision?

What about the alternatives to abortion?

Why do you want to have an abortion instead of carrying your pregnancy to term and giving the baby up for adoption?

What do you know about adoption? Describe the difference between open and closed adoptions.

List the resources available to you in your community if you chose adoption (maternity homes, adoption counseling, etc.)

What do you know about choosing to become a teen parent? List the state programs to help you if you wanted to become a teen parent. How could you collect child support?

What type of birth control or family planning method will you use in the future?