

## Difficult Questions or Statements

Here is a list of some questions or comments that women might say during a session. While there is no one right way to respond, this handout offers suggestions for these situations.

### ***What would you do if you were in my place?***

- I'm not sure what I would do. One of the hardest parts of an unplanned pregnancy is that there is no right decision.
- Even if two people are in exactly the same situation, their choices might be different.

### ***Have you ever had an abortion?***

- Lots of women have abortions. Many statistics show that about half of all women will have an abortion during their lifetime.
- I may have or I may not have. But if I have, doesn't mean that you should; and if I haven't, doesn't mean that you shouldn't
- How do you think that this would make a difference in your making a decision?

### ***I feel like having an abortion would be really selfish.***

- What do you mean when you say selfish?

This question often reveals another issue that is more concrete: i.e. "Because my boyfriend wants to keep it" or "I'm not done being young and having fun."

### ***I was raised to believe that abortion is wrong.***

- A lot of people believe that abortion isn't the right choice for them.
- Sometimes people are raised to believe one thing and then when they grow up, they develop different opinions.
- Is this for religious reasons? Many Christians / Catholics are Pro-Choice. Have you ever heard of Catholics for a Free Choice?

### ***I need an abortion because I went out drinking before I knew I was pregnant.***

- It doesn't seem like having a few drinks would necessarily mean there would be birth defects. Would you like to talk to someone to find out your risk?

### ***My mom / dad is going to kill me.***

- Have your parents ever seriously threatened you or harmed you in the past?
- Many young people think that their parents won't understand, but very often families are brought closer by sharing difficult experiences.
- Do you have any other adults in your life that you can talk to?

### ***I don't believe in abortion, but I feel like I have to do this.***

- If you don't feel comfortable about having an abortion, then maybe it's not the best choice for you. When people make a decision "because they have to," it can lead to a great deal of regret and grief.

Review the various language options that can be used to describe those involved in the pregnancy:

Pregnancy Terms	Parents of Pregnant Client
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy</li> <li>• Baby</li> <li>• Fetus</li> <li>• Unborn child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mother / Father of the pregnant teen</li> <li>• Mother / Father of the pregnant teen's partner</li> <li>• Grandmother / Grandfather</li> <li>• Birthgrandmother / Birthgrandfather</li> </ul>
Terms for Client	Terms for Client's Partner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnant woman</li> <li>• Pregnant teen</li> <li>• Mother</li> <li>• Birthmother</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Man / Young Man</li> <li>• Partner</li> <li>• Father</li> <li>• Birthfather</li> </ul>
Terms for Abortion	
<p style="text-align: center;">           Having an Abortion            Terminating a Pregnancy            Medication Abortion            In-Clinic Abortion            Elective Termination            Induced Miscarriage         </p>	