

CONSUMER ALERT

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

consumer **alert**

WARNING: Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) do NOT provide abortion care. CPCs are organizations that seek to prevent people from accessing comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion care and contraception. Here's what you need to know about CPCs.

Your right to an abortion is protected in New Jersey. You have the right to truthful, unbiased, and medically accurate health information about abortion care and where to access such care. If you are pregnant, consult with a licensed health care provider to understand your options for abortion care and other reproductive health care services. Need help finding a provider? See the resources identified under "How Can I Find an Abortion Provider."

WHAT IS A CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER?

Crisis Pregnancy Centers try to convince pregnant people not to have abortions. *CPCs may appear to be reproductive health care clinics, but they do not provide abortion care or provide referrals for abortion care, contraception, or other reproductive health care.*

Many CPCs do not provide any health care at all, despite suggesting to the public that they do. In addition, many CPCs are not licensed medical facilities and do not employ licensed medical professionals, which means that CPC staff likely are not required to keep your health information private or follow medical ethics rules and standards of care. CPCs may also provide false or misleading information about abortion—including the physical and mental health effects of abortion—to deter people from choosing abortion.

Some CPCs offer non-diagnostic ultrasounds, which may be performed by an unlicensed person *who may not be qualified to provide that service.* This non-diagnostic ultrasound may provide inaccurate or misleading results, including about how far along you are in your pregnancy. Only a licensed health care professional can accurately tell you how many weeks pregnant you are.

HOW CAN I SPOT A CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER?

A Crisis Pregnancy Center may:

- Be a website, a call center, an app, or a physical location that looks like or is located near a clinic or doctor's office.
- Have a name that is similar to that of a health care provider, including words like "care," "health," "pregnancy," "resource," and "choice." (Note that many CPCs do not call themselves "crisis pregnancy centers"; nor do they use that term in advertising.)
- Offer free services (including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and adoption information) or supplies (including diapers and baby clothes) to individuals seeking abortion or reproductive health care services.
- Offer limited "counseling" services without providing complete or accurate information regarding all options for reproductive health care, including abortion.
- Postpone or reschedule appointments to delay individuals' access to abortion care.
- Pressure individuals to delay an abortion or continue a pregnancy, including by providing false or misleading information about the safety and legality of abortion care.

A facility may be a Crisis Pregnancy Center even if it:

- Has staff and volunteers who wear medical attire and collect personal and health information.
- Contains examination rooms with medical equipment (like an ultrasound machine) and supplies.

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WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK?

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs recommends that individuals seeking an abortion or other reproductive health care services conduct their own research to determine what type of care is best and where to go for it. Look at reviews of the center and look at its website to see if comprehensive pregnancy-related services are offered. If staff are unable or unwilling to answer your questions, consider seeking treatment elsewhere. Be cautious of any attempts by the center to delay or dissuade you from the services that you are seeking. It is critical that you have timely access to care when you need it. When you arrive for your appointment, make sure you are in the right place, as many CPCs are located near clinics that provide abortion care.

If you are considering abortion and would like to be sure that you are not contacting a Crisis Pregnancy Center, here are some questions that you can ask:

- Does this center provide abortions? If so, what type (medication, surgical procedures)?
- If you don't provide abortion care yourselves, do you provide referrals to a provider where people can find abortion care?
- If I come in for a visit, will I be seen by a licensed medical professional? If so, what kind of licensed medical professional (doctor, nurse, midwife, etc.)?
- What services do you provide (for example, contraception, STD testing and treatment, ultrasound)?
- How much does treatment cost?
- Does the center accept health insurance or Medicaid?
- How will my health information and the services provided by this center be protected and kept private?
- Is the facility licensed? If so, what type of license?

You can check the status of a health care provider's license at <https://newjersey.mylicense.com/verification>. A listing of licensed health care facilities can be found at <https://healthapps.state.nj.us/facilities/acSearch.aspx>.

The Division of Consumer Affairs also recommends that health care professionals and social service organizations exercise caution so as to avoid unknowingly referring individuals seeking comprehensive reproductive health care or abortion care to a CPC.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M UNSURE ABOUT OR UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE CARE THAT I AM RECEIVING?

You should leave. If at any point you realize or suspect that you are at a CPC and want to leave, it is generally your right to do so. You are under no obligation to a CPC or its staff.

HOW CAN I FIND AN ABORTION PROVIDER?

If you are seeking reproductive health care or access to abortion providers and services in New Jersey, the following external resources list licensed health care providers and services that may be available in your area:

- **Planned Parenthood**, which provides a list of abortion providers, in addition to reproductive health care services and educational resources – <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>.
- **The National Abortion Federation**, which provides a list of abortion providers – <https://prochoice.org/>.
- **Abortion Finder**, which provides a list of abortion providers – <https://www.abortionfinder.org/>.
- **Abortion Clinics Online**, which provides a list of abortion providers – <https://www.abortionclinics.com/state/new-jersey-abortion-clinics/>.

If you think you may not be able to afford the cost of abortion care, talk to your health care or abortion provider about funding options that might be available to you.

HOW CAN I FILE A COMPLAINT?

If you believe you are a victim of fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, or unlawful conduct, please file a complaint with the **New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs** at <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/Pages/Consumer-Complaints.aspx> or 973-504-6200.

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