

Forced Abortion in America

A Special Report

Most abortions are unwanted or coerced. Many are forced.

From deceptive or coercive counseling to job and housing discrimination, pregnancy- or abortion-related violence or even homicide - the leading killer of pregnant women - abortion endangers women and children.

After abortion, women are further at risk as most suffer symptoms of trauma, death rates are nearly 4 times higher, and, in the first year after abortion, suicide rates are 6 times higher.

Abortion is endangering, maiming and killing women, too:

- When his wife refused to abort, her husband jumped on her stomach until their baby died . . .
- A daughter was pushed into an abortion clinic at gunpoint by her mother . . .
- Outside a parking garage, a physician shouted, “I’m giving you an abortion!” as he injected the mother of his child with an abortifacient drug . . .
- A school counselor ridiculed the student and put her on the weekly bus to the abortion clinic . . .
- A homeless woman was denied shelter until she had an abortion . . .
- A 13-year-old was returned to her molester after he took her in for a cover-up abortion . . .
- A waitress was fired after refusing to abort ...

In this report:

- FORCED ABORTION FACT SHEET
- PART I – COERCION CAN TAKE MANY FORMS
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- PORTRAITS OF COERCION

Forced Abortion in America

Unwanted abortions and other risks and human rights abuses

The Un-Choice:

- 64% of women reported feeling pressured to abort.¹
- 79% weren't told of available resources.¹
- Pressure to abort can escalate to violence.²
- Clinics fail to screen for coercion.⁴
- Suicide rates 6 times higher after abortion.⁶
- Most felt rushed or uncertain, yet 67% weren't counseled.¹
- 84% weren't sufficiently informed before abortion.¹
- Homicide is the leading killer of pregnant women.³
- Women nearly 4 times more likely to die after abortion.⁵
- 65% of women suffer trauma symptoms after abortion.¹

Unwanted Choice: Most abortions are unwanted or coerced. Many are forced.

Most abortions are unwanted or coerced and many are forced, sometimes violently. Escalating pressure to abort can come from employers, husbands, parents, doctors, partners, profit-driven abortion businesses, landlords, friends and family, or even trusted financial, personal, school or religious guides, gatekeepers or authorities. They may be negligent in telling young or vulnerable individuals or couples about available resources. They may misrepresent information or present false information as fact. They may threaten or blackmail.

These are not idle threats. Coercion can escalate to violence. As this report shows, women who resist abortion have been beaten, tortured and killed. Some have been forcibly injected with drugs, secretly given veterinary or other abortifacient drugs to force a miscarriage. Others were the victim of hit men hired to injure or kill the baby, the mother, or both.

Sometimes, the threats involve blackmail or loss of one's home or job, or the exploitation of those facing a crisis. In one case, an employer threatened to push his pregnant employee down the stairs if she didn't agree to have an abortion. In another case, a maternity-shop retailer fired pregnant employees. In yet another, a homeless woman was denied shelter until she agreed to an abortion. Often, such pressure comes from all sides and can escalate.

Coerced Choice ... Taken to the Clinic to Make Sure She Keeps the Appointment

A former abortion clinic security guard testified before the Massachusetts legislature that women were routinely threatened and abused by the boyfriends or husbands who took them to the clinics to make sure they underwent their scheduled abortions.⁷ Many women are also pressured by clinic staff financially rewarded for selling abortions.⁸

Forced Choice ... Threats Can Escalate to Violence or Homicide — the Leading Killer of Pregnant Women

Many pregnant women have been killed by partners trying to prevent the birth. Simply being pregnant places women at higher risk of being attacked.⁹ Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women.³ Women are aware of these risks. 92% of women surveyed list domestic violence and assault as the women's issue that is of highest concern to them.¹⁰

Uninformed Non-Choice ... "When I learned the truth, I can't tell you how betrayed I felt."

- 54% were unsure of their decision, yet 67% received no counseling beforehand.¹
- 84% were inadequately counseled beforehand.¹ 79% not told or deceived about available resources.¹
- Many were misinformed by experts about fetal development, abortion alternatives or risks.¹¹
- Many were denied essential personal, family, societal or economic support.¹¹

Unsafe Choice ... Americans Concerned About Coercion and Risks; Support Research and Screening.

Nearly half of voters believe coerced abortion is common. They believe negative effects are more common than generally reported. They'll support candidates who advocate legislation holding abortionists liable for failing to screen for evidence of coercion.¹² Nearly 80% of abortions take place in non-hospital facilities, ill-equipped for emergency care.¹³

- 31% had health complications afterwards.¹
- 65% higher risk of clinical depression.¹⁴
- 3.5x higher risk of death from all causes.⁵
- 65% suffer multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.¹
- 10% have immediate complications, some are life-threatening.¹⁵
- Suicide rates are 6 times higher if women abort vs. giving birth.⁶

Forced Abortion — Part I

Most involve coercion, which can take many forms

Women Blackmailed into Abortion

Homelessness, Employment Discrimination, Solitary Confinement or a Push Down the Stairs

- **Universities Revoke Scholarships of Pregnant Athletes; College Students Felt Pressured to Abort**

Cases of colleges revoking scholarships of student athletes who become pregnant have been reported to the NCAA. For example, University of Memphis and Clemson University students said that they felt pressured to have abortions. A related study, published in the *Journal of Issues In Intercollegiate Athletics*, found that pregnant student-athletes “conceal pregnancy, feel forced into abortion, or lose scholarships because of pregnancy.” The report recommended that colleges publish clear policies about student-athlete pregnancy and help create a safer health environment by advocating for pregnant and parenting student athletes.^{C1}

“Why doesn’t she just get an abortion? Then she can work.”

- **Actress Fired For Being Pregnant; TV Producer Wonders Why She Didn’t “Just Abort”**

An actress won a pregnancy discrimination suit against the producers of the Fox TV show *Melrose Place* after she was fired from the cast because she was pregnant. Her lawsuit alleged that one of the show’s producers remarked, “Why doesn’t she just go out and get an abortion? Then she can work.”^{C2}

- **Basketball Coach Accuses School of Firing Her for Refusing to Have an Abortion**

An assistant women’s basketball coach won a settlement against the University of California at Berkeley, accusing the head coach of firing her after she refused to quit or to have an abortion. She later gave birth to a son. She sued for sexual discrimination and breach of contract for being forced to choose “between her child and a paycheck.”^{C3}

- **Homeless Woman Reports Being Denied Shelter Until She Submits to Abortion**

A woman won a \$25,000 settlement from Emergency Shelters, Inc., of Richmond, VA, after she filed a lawsuit charging staff members with coercing her to get an abortion by telling her that the shelter did not provide services for pregnant homeless women. She stated that a staff member drove her to the bank to withdraw money for the abortion, then took her to the abortion clinic.^{C4}

- **Woman Wins Settlement After Accusing Boss of Coerced Abortion and Threats**

A Minnesota woman won an out-of-court settlement for an undisclosed amount from her employer, Duluth Little Stores, after her boss tried to pressure her to abort. The woman said her boss mistreated her while she was pregnant and threatened to push her down the stairs during her sixth month of pregnancy.^{C5}

Boss: “You have a choice to make.”

- **Medic Says She Aborted After Boss Threatened to Fire Her**

Three paramedics accused the Washington, D.C. Assistant Emergency Medical Services Chief of pressuring them into having abortions by telling them they could be fired if they became pregnant their first year on the job. One woman told authorities she aborted despite her beliefs because she was afraid of losing her job. She said she was told “she had a choice to make.” The assistant chief later resigned from her job.^{C6}

- **Law School Grad Uses Sex Videotape in Attempt to Blackmail Girlfriend into Abortion**

A Florida law school graduate was sentenced for trying to force his ex-girlfriend to have an abortion. He hired

friends to blackmail his girlfriend by threatening to mail copies of a videotape the couple had made of themselves having sex to the woman's family, friends, and employer unless she had the abortion. The woman later gave birth to a girl.^{C7}

- **Walmart Pays \$220,000 for Rejecting Pregnant Applicant**

The U.S. Equal Employment Contribution settled a pregnancy discrimination suit against Walmart for failing to hire a job applicant who was pregnant. According to the lawsuit, the woman told the Assistant Manager that she was pregnant during a job interview and was told to “come back after she had the baby.” She filed a complaint after later reading in a magazine that refusing to hire someone because they are pregnant is illegal. According to the EEOC, pregnancy discrimination cases are on the rise and other companies are being investigated for firing and demoting pregnant women.^{C8}

- **Woman Files Pregnancy Discrimination Lawsuit Against Maternity Clothing Retailer**

Mother's Work, a maternity clothing retailer, settled a pregnancy discrimination lawsuit charging that they fired employees after they became pregnant. One woman, a former district manager, accused the vice-president of firing her during her 37th week of pregnancy after telling her she wouldn't be able to handle her job. The company denied any wrongdoing.^{C9}

- **Funeral Home Employee Wins Lawsuit Over Coerced Abortion**

A funeral home employee in Florida filed a lawsuit against Fisher-Pou Funeral Home, saying that her supervisor badgered her into an abortion because her baby was biracial. The woman and three other former employees accused a supervisor of pressuring the woman to abort, making financial arrangements and taking her for the abortion. The woman said she was later fired from her job for interracial dating.^{C10}

- **NutriSystem Settles EEOC Case for Firing Pregnant Employee**

In another EEOC case, NutriSystem, Inc. agreed to pay \$82,500 for a woman who was terminated after becoming pregnant. The woman was fired three weeks after she told her employer that she was pregnant and one month after she had been placed in a leadership training program. According to the EEOC, pregnancy discrimination cases are on the rise and other companies are being investigated for firing and demoting pregnant women.^{C11}

Learn More

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These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. For more information, visit the TheUnChoice.com

Forced Abortion — Part II

Teens at risk of coerced or forced abortion, serious aftereffects

Teens are at especially at risk for unwanted, coerced and forced abortion.

Teens are more likely to feel pressured into abortion, to report being misinformed in pre-abortion counseling and to experience more severe psychological stress after abortion.¹⁶ Many are vulnerable to manipulation and coercion by counselors, medical personnel, and other adults in positions of authority.

Even Planned Parenthood acknowledges that teens are less likely to have the maturity, knowledge and communications skills needed to make a decision about abortion. As a result, “counselors need to be aware of and appreciate the fact that pregnancy counseling with teenagers can be very different from counseling adults . . . pregnancy counseling with teens is often a crisis situation.”¹⁷

Sexual predators use abortion to hide abuse. Policies at abortion businesses help predators, not teens.

The “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy of many abortion businesses and the documented failure of clinic staff to report cases of suspected abuse means that sexual predators can use abortion to hide the abuse and, in many cases, continue preying on their victims. Undercover investigations at abortion clinics have uncovered numerous cases of staff willing to hide cases of statutory rape and sexual abuse and failing to report cases of suspected abuse to authorities.¹⁸ Most clinics don’t screen for coercion or make sure that the teen is not being abused or being pushed, pressured or forced into abortion.⁴

Higher risk factors for teens

Teens and their families might also not be aware of factors that put them at risk for problems after abortion. Studies have found that having an abortion as a teen, having an abortion as a result of pressure or coercion, or a history of sexual assault or abuse are all risk factors that lead to greater likelihood of psychological problems after abortion.¹⁹

Young Women Forced to Abort

By Parents, Husbands, Molesters . . . Even Pastors and School Officials

- **Mother Charged with Forcing 15-Year-Old at Gunpoint into Clinic**

A Florida woman was sentenced to two years community service after she pleaded guilty to forcing her daughter at gunpoint to go to an abortion clinic. According to a staff member, the mother told clinic workers that if her daughter did not have an abortion, “I’m going to blow her brains out.” Clinic workers called police, but police said the mother told staff to perform the abortion even though her daughter “may seem a bit teary.”^{C12}

- **Molester Buys Abortion—Twins Get Seven More Years of Rape**

In New Orleans, a 41-year-old man received two life sentences for raping his girlfriend’s twin daughters and using abortion to cover up his crimes. The victims testified that the assaults began when they were 10 and continued for seven years. One of the girls said she had two abortions after she became pregnant from the man when she was 15 and 17. She said the man paid for one abortion, unbeknownst to the mother. Her mother, who was told that the girl was raped by a date, paid for the second abortion.^{C13}

- **Lawsuit: School Counselor Bypassed Parents, Law to Arrange Student’s Abortion**

The parents of a 17-year-old girl accused a Pennsylvania school guidance counselor of coercing their daughter into undergoing an abortion, which was done out of state to avoid parental consent laws. The suit noted that when the teen expressed doubts, the counselor told her, “someday you’ll look back on this and laugh.” The school settled the lawsuit.^{C14}

- **13-Year-Old Returned to Molester After First of Two Abortions**

In Arizona, a judge found Planned Parenthood negligent for failing to report an abortion performed on a 13-year-old girl who was sexually abused by her 23-year-old foster brother. The clinic did not notify authorities until the girl returned six months later for a *second* abortion. A lawsuit alleged that the girl was subjected to repeated abuse and a second abortion because of the clinic's failure to report suspected abuse. The man was sentenced to prison.^{C15}

- **Mother Helps Son Use Abortion to Cover Up Statutory Rape of 12-Year-Old Girl; Girl Has Complications**

A Pennsylvania mother began campaigning for a federal law to prevent anyone from taking a minor out of state for an abortion in order to circumvent parental consent laws, after her 12-year-old daughter was taken out of state for an abortion by the mother of the girl's 18-year-old boyfriend. The girl's mother only learned of the abortion after her daughter began experiencing complications, including severe pain and bleeding. The boyfriend was later convicted for interfering in the custody of a minor.^{C16}

- **Abuser Poses as Father of 16-Year-Old Girl in Order to Obtain Abortion**

A 36-year-old man was sentenced to 18 months to two years in prison for felony child abuse after he posed as the father of a 16-year-old girl whom he was sexually abusing and signed consent forms for an abortion at an Omaha abortion clinic. The man claimed he was remorseful about the situation, but prosecutors said he continued to write to the girl while in jail and filed frivolous protection orders against her parents.^{C17}

| She told them to do the abortion even if her daughter was “a bit teary.”

- **Parents Use At Least 10 Abortions to Cover Up Repeated Sexual Abuse of Daughters**

The parents of three teenaged Baltimore girls pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree rape and child sexual abuse. The father had repeatedly raped the three girls over a period of at least nine years, and the rapes were covered up by at least 10 abortions. At least five of the abortions were performed by the same abortionist at the same clinic.^{C18}

- **Man Sentenced to Prison for 10 Years of Sexual Abuse; Victim Had Abortion Out of Fear**

A Philadelphia man was sentenced to 20–40 years for raping and physically abusing a young girl in his care over a period of 10 years, beginning when she was 8 years old. The girl said that when she became pregnant, she had an abortion out of fear of further abuse.^{C19}

- **Parents Tie Daughter Up in Trunk of Car to Take Her for Abortion**

The parents of a 19-year-old Maine girl pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault charges after they tied up and gagged their daughter, put her in the trunk of their car and drove her to another state for an abortion. The teen was able to escape from her parents in New Hampshire and call police on her cell phone. Investigators said race played a factor in the parents' actions and that a rope, duct tape, scissors and a gun were found in the car.^{C20}

- **Man Convicted of Raping Stepdaughters, Pro-Life Group Reports Abuse After Clinic Does Abortion**

A Kansas man and his wife were convicted after the man raped his two stepdaughters over several years, resulting in four pregnancies and at least one abortion. His 11-year-old stepdaughter underwent an abortion at a Wichita abortion clinic, but the abuse was reported by a pro-life group after one of the daughters visited their office seeking the abortion. The abortion businesses allegedly did not report a case of possible abuse to authorities.^{C21}

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Forced Abortion — Part III

Coercion Can Lead to Violence

Coercion Can Escalate to Violence if Women Won't Abort

Pregnancy Places Women at Higher Risk of Attack⁹

64% of abortions involve coercion,¹ and this sometimes includes threats of physical abuse from partners—or even parents—who don't want the child. Women and girls have been physically pushed into clinics and restrained when they tried to escape their abortion. Women have endured forced miscarriages, which sometimes result in murder—the leading killer of pregnant women.³ Other women resort to abortion because they believe it is the only way to stop the abuse.

Men have forcibly performed abortions by switchblade, gunshot, and other violent methods

Coercion often involves direct or indirect threats of physical violence. Women who refuse to abort have been subjected to every manner of abuse, from forced injections to stabbings, beatings, bombings, gunshots, and strangulation.

According to one study of battered women, the target of battery during their pregnancies shifted to their pregnant abdomens.¹⁹ Indeed, the leading cause of death among pregnant women is murder.³ In many cases, it is known that these women were killed solely because their killers wanted to stop them from giving birth to their children.²⁰

In a recent poll, 92% of women cited preventing domestic violence as their highest priority.¹⁰

NOTE: Some of the cases below contain graphic descriptions of violence.

Women Who Choose Life Subjected to Violent Forced Abortions

- **Doctor Stabs Girlfriend with Syringe Outside Parking Garage to Force Abortion**

A New York physician was sentenced to prison after repeatedly stabbing his girlfriend with a syringe filled with an abortion-inducing drug. A witness said the man shouted, “I’m giving you an abortion!” as he forced the woman to the ground near a hospital parking garage. She later gave birth to a healthy boy.^{C24}

- **Three Hit Men Hired to Kill Unborn Baby After Woman Refuses Abortion**

A pregnant Arkansas woman was within days of her due date when she was beaten and kicked in the abdomen by three men, killing her unborn baby girl. She said she pleaded for her child’s life as her attackers told her, “Your baby is dying tonight.” The woman’s boyfriend was convicted of planning the attack.^{C25}

- **Man Beats Girlfriend For Refusing to Go into Abortion Clinic**

A man pleaded guilty to two counts of simple assault for beating up his girlfriend outside an abortion clinic in Washington, D.C. Witnesses said he beat the woman after she refused to enter the clinic after speaking with pro-life advocates outside. She later gave birth to a healthy baby.^{C26}

- **Boyfriend Breaks Into Home, Assaults Girlfriend Who Had Refused Abortion**

A man pleaded guilty to forcing his way into his girlfriend’s Buffalo, N.Y., house and beating, kicking, and punching her after she refused to have an abortion. The victim, who was three months pregnant, told police the man said to her, “I’m going to beat that baby out of you.”^{C27}

- **Man Admits on Tape to Giving Wife Abortion Drug; Tries to Convince Her She Really Wanted Abortion**

An Air Force service member stationed in Alaska was dishonorably discharged and was sentenced to 9 years, six

months in prison for secretly using the drug Misoprostol to force his wife to miscarry after she refused to abort. The woman later recorded her husband admitting to the act but trying to convince her that she really wanted an abortion.^{C28}

- **Man Stalks Ex-Girlfriend Who Refused to Abort; Threatens Her After Baby's Birth**

A Washington man was convicted for stalking his ex-girlfriend after she gave birth to their son. The woman told prosecutors he punched her in the stomach and tried to rape her when she refused to abort and continued to threaten her after the baby's birth, forcing her to get a protective order against him. The state Supreme Court upheld the man's conviction in 2008.^{C29}

- **Boyfriend Stabbed Pregnant Woman Who Says He Demanded an Abortion**

A Nevada man was charged for repeatedly stabbing his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen, killing her 18-week-old unborn baby. The woman told police he had demanded she have an abortion. The man was sentenced to 18 years in prison for causing the unborn child's death, and ordered to pay the woman's medical bills.^{C30}

“Your child is dying tonight.”

- **Connecticut Man Demands Abortion, Rapes Girlfriend, Forces Abortifacient Drug**

A Connecticut man was convicted of seven felony charges in Connecticut for raping his pregnant girlfriend and trying to abort her baby by forcing her to take misoprostol, a labor-inducing drug. The woman told police that he had demanded she have an abortion.^{C31}

- **Women and Girls Sold Into Sex Trafficking Forced to Abort**

Reports on the increase of sex trafficking in the U.S. and around the world have also given rise to fears that women and girls who become pregnant will be forced to abort. For example, a Dept. of Health and Human Services deputy secretary, speaking at a conference in Honolulu on trafficking in women and children, described a case in which a 13-year-old Mexican girl was tricked into prostitution in the United States and forced to undergo two abortions.

He said two men persuaded the girl, who worked as a waitress in Mexico, that she could make more money by working in Texas. The girl, who was a virgin, was gang-raped and then forced to work as a prostitute. He said the girl described being pistol-whipped, raped, and forced to undergo two abortions. She finally was rescued by police after six months when two of the girls managed to flee to a neighboring home. Experts estimate that more than 27 million people worldwide are held in some form of slavery, including millions of women and girls forced into marriage or prostitution or working as domestic servants or in factories.^{C33}

- **Man Poisons Girlfriend's Drink to Induce Miscarriage**

A Missouri man was convicted after he put poison in his girlfriend's drink in an attempt to induce a miscarriage. Police said he had told friends he poisoned his girlfriend because he didn't want the baby. His 19-year-old girlfriend later delivered a healthy baby.^{C35}

He poisoned his girlfriend because he didn't want the baby.

- **Man Arrested for Stabbing Pregnant Girlfriend, Killing Unborn Child**

In South Dakota, a man was arrested for stabbing his girlfriend in the abdomen, resulting in the death of her unborn child. He was sentenced to 35 years in prison. His girlfriend, who survived the attack, was 4 to 5 months pregnant. The prosecutor said the man “intentionally stabbed the woman in the stomach, causing the death of the unborn child.”^{C36}

- **Woman Refuses Abortion; Baby's Father Kicks Her in Stomach in Attempt to Cause Miscarriage**

A Michigan man was charged with assaulting a pregnant woman and intending to cause a miscarriage or stillbirth. The

woman testified that she and a friend went to the man's apartment to talk about the baby, but after she refused to have an abortion, he threw her into some bushes and began punching her and kicking her in the abdomen with steel-toed boots. The judge said it was clear he had directed his assault on the unborn child.^{C39}

- **Man Laces Girlfriend's Drink with Drug Used to Induce Labor in Farm Animals**

In New York, a man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to lacing his pregnant girlfriend's drink with a drug used to induce labor in farm animals. His 19-year-old girlfriend and her baby survived.^{C41}

| "I'm giving you an abortion!"

- **Man Arrested Twice for Assault, Attempted Murder of Pregnant Woman**

In St. Louis, a man was sentenced to five years in prison for assaulting his pregnant girlfriend and causing the death of his unborn twin daughters. He was released from prison after two years, but was arrested again for attempting to murder the same woman, who had married him and was five to six months pregnant at the time of the murder attempt.^{C43}

- **Woman Beaten, Punched in Abdomen by Husband Days Before Delivery Date**

A Milwaukee woman was days away from her delivery date when her estranged husband beat her, grabbed her by her hair, and punched her in the abdomen. Her unborn son died of bleeding caused by blunt force trauma. Her husband was convicted of first degree assault and false imprisonment, but Wisconsin did not at that time allow prosecution for the death of the unborn child. The woman later testified before Congress that her ex-husband said in an interview that if the state had a law protecting unborn children, he would not have attacked her child.^{C47}

- **Pennsylvania Man Imprisoned for Punching Pregnant Girlfriend in Stomach**

A Pennsylvania woman's boyfriend punched her in the stomach when she was three months pregnant. The man pleaded guilty to assault after prosecutors dropped charges for aggravated assault against the unborn child, who survived.^{C50}

- **Pregnant Woman Miscarries After Being Punched and Kicked by Boyfriend**

A Malone, N.Y., man pleaded guilty to second-degree abortion and was sentenced to two to four years in a state prison for repeatedly punching and kicking his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen. His girlfriend suffered a miscarriage the next day. Prosecutors said Tucker shouted that he wanted to kill the baby.^{C51}

| "I'm going to beat that baby out of you."

- **New York Man Arrested for Stabbing of Pregnant Woman**

An Albany man was convicted for repeatedly stabbing his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen in what prosecutors said was an attempt to make her lose the pregnancy. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison for assault and up to three more years for attempting to kill the unborn child. His girlfriend and the baby both survived.^{C52}

- **Caught on Tape: Doctor Tries to Abort Ex-Girlfriend's Baby with Abortifacient Drug**

Ohio police videotaped a doctor slipping an abortifacient drug into his ex-girlfriend's drink. The woman went to the police after she became ill several times after visiting the man. She later miscarried. He received five years in prison for attempted abortion, and his wife, who purchased the drug, was also convicted.^{C53}

- **Attorney Tries to Hire Hit Man to Kill Girlfriend's Unborn Twins**

A Florida attorney was convicted for attempting to hire a hit man to beat his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach with a baseball bat after she refused to have an abortion. The woman, who was pregnant with twins, asked for leniency in the man's sentencing, but said later that she did so before she heard a tape of him asking a prostitute how he could hire someone to kill his girlfriend.^{C55}

- **New Jersey Man Convicted for Planning Assault on Pregnant Girlfriend to Cause Her to Miscarry**

A New Jersey man was sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree aggravated assault charges for attempting to engineer an attack on his pregnant girlfriend after she refused to abort. The man, who was married to another woman, offered a friend \$3,000 to cause the woman to miscarry and discussed injecting her with an abortifacient, police said. Instead, the friend went to police and recorded the conversations planning the attack.^{C56}

- **Abortionist Convicted of Forcibly Aborting Women He Impregnated**

An Indianapolis abortionist was convicted in three cases in which he seduced and impregnated women and then performed abortions on them without their consent. One woman testified that the man drugged her and aborted her eight-month-old baby at his home. She said she awoke briefly to hear a baby crying, but he told her the baby was stillborn. The child's body was never found. The abortionist was also convicted of tax evasion and numerous counts of improper sexual behavior towards his patients—including raping one of his former patients in her home. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison.^{C60}

“Your baby doesn't deserve to live.”

- **Man Rapes and Tortures Pregnant Girlfriend, Her Baby Dies**

A Milwaukee man was convicted of beating, raping, and torturing his pregnant girlfriend and holding her captive in his home for two days. His girlfriend, who was eight-and-a-half months pregnant, was tied to a bed, bitten, burned with cigarettes, and beaten with an electrical cord. She delivered a stillborn baby after he finally summoned an ambulance for her. The man pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.^{C61}

- **Man Charged With Beating Daughter Who Refused Abortion**

An Ohio man admitted to police that he beat his 16-year-old daughter for refusing to have an abortion. The father faces charges of domestic violence and endangering children. He allegedly told police that he planned to keep the girl locked in the house until he could take her for an abortion and that he beat her with a metal broomstick when she refused. The girl told police her father also punched her in the face and stomach.^{C62}

- **Father Stages Carjacking, Has Mother and Unborn Child Shot**

An Ohio man was convicted of arranging to have his pregnant girlfriend shot during a staged carjacking so he wouldn't have to be a father to her child. The woman survived the shooting, but her 3-month-old unborn baby died.^{C64}

- **Man Assaults Pregnant Girlfriend to Get Rid of Baby, Attacks Mother for Trying to Stop Him**

A Minneapolis man was sentenced to 9 years in prison for assaulting his pregnant girlfriend, killing her 8-1/2 month old unborn child. He reportedly punched her, slapped her and kicked her repeatedly in the abdomen while wearing steel-toed boots. Police said he also assaulted his mother when she tried to stop the attack.^{C65}

She was beaten in the abdomen with a baseball bat.

- **Teens Assault Pregnant Girl: “You Should Have Got An Abortion; Now Your Baby Is Going to Die”**

Two Ohio teenagers were convicted for kidnapping and assaulting a pregnant teen, killing her unborn child. Police said one of the boys thought he had fathered the child, and the two hit the teen and kicked her the abdomen to cause the death of her 8-month-old unborn child. One of them allegedly told her that she should have gotten an abortion, and that “now your baby is going to die.” DNA tests showed the teen was not the father.^{C66}

- **Men Convicted for Trying to Kill Pregnant Woman and Her Unborn Child**

Three California men were convicted for kidnapping, beating and robbing the pregnant girlfriend of one of the men, attempting to kill her unborn baby and leaving her with serious head injuries. Authorities said the three men told the woman they were going to take her to the movies, but instead took her to a remote spot in a park and beat her with a

baseball bat, a metal flashlight and a garbage can, before stripping and robbing her and dumping her by the side of the road. The woman and her baby both survived.^{C67}

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Forced Abortion — Part IV

Violence Can Lead to Homicide

Violence Can Escalate to Homicide if Women Don't Abort

- Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women.³
- It is not unusual for a pregnancy to be wanted by the woman but unwanted by those around her.
- The woman's partner may not want the long-term costs of supporting a child, the loss of his "freedom" or being tied down with parental responsibilities, or a birth that might expose an affair, a rape, or the sexual abuse of a minor. Whatever the reason, some men will become increasingly pressuring, abusive, and violent until they get their way: a dead baby, even if it also requires killing the mother.
- If so, the woman can feel tremendous, often life-threatening, pressure to abort.

Life-Threatening Pressure to Abort

- Pregnancy places women at higher risk of being attacked.⁹
- Women understand that threats of violence are real. Preventing domestic violence is their top concern.¹⁰
- According to one study of battered women, the target of battery during pregnancy shifted to their abdomens.²⁰ The leading cause of death among pregnant women is homicide³ and in many cases it is known that the violence happened solely to prevent birth.²¹

NOTE: Some of the cases below contain graphic descriptions of violence.

Teens Who Refuse to Abort Have Been Murdered

- **Man Stabs 15-Year-Old Girl Who Refused Abortion, Frozen Body Found at Rest Stop**
A 38-year-old man was sentenced to life in prison for killing a pregnant 15-year-old girl. She was stabbed multiple times and her frozen body was later discovered at a Wyoming rest stop. Prosecutors said that he had gotten the teen pregnant and that he killed her for refusing to abort.^{C68}
- **Man Charged with Shooting Teen in Head After She Refuses Abortion**
A pregnant 17-year-old was shot in the head in her apartment in Greensboro, NC. Her boyfriend, who was 21, was sentenced to life without parole for her murder. Police said he killed the teen because she refused to have an abortion and he didn't want to pay child support.^{C69}
- **Ohio Police Officer Strangles Pregnant Girlfriend to Avoid Paying Child Support**
Prosecutors said an Ohio police officer convicted of killing his pregnant girlfriend and her nearly full-term unborn daughter said he strangled the woman to get out of paying child support, as he was married and had three other children. The woman was missing for a week before the man lead authorities to her body. According to testimony, the man told a friend a month before the killings that he planned to kill the girlfriend and throw her body in the woods.^{C70}
- **15-Year-Old Pregnant Girl Jammed with Sticks, Beaten, Crushed with 30 Lb. Boulder**
In Colorado, a 21-year-old confessed to luring his pregnant teenage girlfriend to a secluded area and killing her by assaulting her with sticks and a boulder. Police said the man jammed a branch down his girlfriend's throat and jammed sticks into her other body cavities, then beat her and crushed her skull with a 30-pound boulder.

She was 15 weeks pregnant. The man pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison under a plea bargain that allowed him to avoid the death penalty.^{C71}

- **Boyfriend Bludgeons Pregnant Girlfriend in Premeditated Murder**

Two teenage boys were convicted of planning and carrying out the murder of a pregnant 15-year-old girl, the girlfriend of one of them. The girl, who was 12 weeks pregnant, left a note for her parents and climbed out her bedroom window to meet her boyfriend for what she believed was a trip to an abortion clinic. He confessed that he instead drove her to a deserted area and bludgeoned her to death with a metal pipe. He was sentenced to life in prison. Another teenage boy was convicted of helping to plan the murder, including digging a grave and buying plastic sheeting to wrap the teen's body.^{C72}

- **16-Year-Old Girl Killed Because Boyfriend Thought She Was Pregnant and Didn't Want Baby**

In Georgia, two teen boys stabbed and beat the girlfriend of one of them to death. Police said the boyfriend, who pleaded guilty, believed his girlfriend was pregnant and he didn't want her to have the baby. An autopsy showed she was not pregnant.^{C73}

- **Pregnant 4th Grader Killed by Her Molester**

In Texas, a 10-year-old girl who had just finished fourth grade was killed, allegedly by a man who had been molesting her. Police said he entered the home of the girl's family and shot and killed her and two other women there. The girl was 17 weeks pregnant and her mother had notified police that the man had assaulted her. Police said he had offered to pay an abortion and he wanted to stop the family from filing charges against him. He was sentenced to death for the murders.^{C74}

| The victim had finished fourth grade the day before she was murdered.

- **Man Strangles His Pregnant Girlfriend After She Refuses to Abort, Caught Trying to Move Her Body**

A Philadelphia man was convicted in the death of his pregnant girlfriend after police caught him trying to move her body. She was five months pregnant. Investigators said that the man admitted he had also gotten another woman pregnant and strangled his girlfriend in a rage after she refused to have an abortion.^{C75}

- **Virginia Man Kills Pregnant Girlfriend, Leaves Body in Woods Because Pregnancy Would Interfere With His Life**

A Virginia man was sentenced to 50 years in prison for killing his girlfriend when she became pregnant. Police said that the man, who was married, drove her to a wooded area and killed her when she tried to flee. Her body, which was found by hunters three days later, had been struck at least 25 times with a hammer or heavy tool. Investigators said the man feared the pregnancy would interfere with his life.^{C76}

- **17-Year-Old and Her Unborn Baby Die of Injuries After Former Teacher Tries to Kill Baby**

A 17-year-old girl and her unborn child died of injuries a day after she was beaten by a former teacher who thought he had fathered the baby. The teacher was convicted of murder after an accomplice testified that the teacher abducted the girl, bound her wrists and ankles with duct tape, beat her abdomen with a baseball bat, and stomped on her. Prosecutors said the evidence showed he intended to kill only the baby, as he helped the girl get dressed and leave after the attack.^{C77}

- **Pregnant 14-Year-Old Stabbed in Abdomen, Neck, and Back; Believed to be Buried Alive**

A New Jersey man who worked as a casino security guard pleaded guilty to the murder of a pregnant 16-year-old girl whose baby he had fathered. According to investigators, he had asked the girl to take a pregnancy test with the plan to murder her if she refused to have an abortion. A co-worker testified that the man told him that he had beaten the girl with rocks and a hammer, "and I'm going to get away with it." Police said the girl was still alive when he left her body in a crevice on an Atlantic City jetty on New Year's Day.^{C78}

- **Pregnant Woman Hit Over Head with Skillet, Shot in Head**

A California man became the first person sentenced to death under California's fetal homicide law for arranging the death

of his pregnant wife. The killer testified that the woman's husband offered him \$1,000 to kill his wife, who was a week away from the due date of her unborn baby girl. The man testified that he broke an iron skillet on the woman's skull and then shot her in the head. The killer received 25 years to life in exchange for his testimony against the husband.^{C79}

- **Man Upset Over Girlfriend's Pregnancy Sets Her Apartment Building on Fire, Killing Her and Others**

A New Jersey man allegedly upset over his girlfriend's pregnancy set fire to the boarding house where the girlfriend lived with her family, killing the girlfriend, her sister and four other tenants. He was found guilty of seven counts of manslaughter and one count of arson.^{C80}

- **Teen Strangled, Stoned, and Stabbed by Boyfriend Who Had Threatened to Kill Her if She Didn't Abort**

An Ohio man confessed to murdering his pregnant 15-year-old girlfriend by strangling her, dropping a rock on her body, and stabbing her with a broken beer bottle. Family and friends testified that the man had threatened to kill the teen and her baby if she didn't abort.^{C81}

- **Woman Refuses Abortion, Man Fulfills Threat and Kills Her with Pipe Bomb**

A pregnant Pittsburgh woman and her 7-year-old daughter were killed by a pipe bomb in their home on New Year's Day. The woman's ex-boyfriend was sentenced to life in prison. Police said he had threatened to kill her when she refused to have an abortion.^{C82}

| The teen was probably still alive when she was buried.

- **Oklahoma City Woman Beaten and Shot After Refusing Abortion**

The body of a pregnant 21-year-old woman was found in a shallow grave in Oklahoma City. Twenty-one weeks pregnant, she had been shot twice and beaten. Police said her boyfriend murdered her because she refused to abort and he didn't want to pay child support. He was sentenced to life in prison.^{C83}

- **Pregnant Woman's Body Found in Car Trunk, Husband Convicted**

The body of a Florida woman who was four months pregnant was found in the trunk of a car in a strip-club parking lot. Her husband was convicted of killing her with a blow to the head, allegedly because she refused to have an abortion. According to court records, the woman told a counselor shortly before her death that her husband was abusing her.^{C84}

- **Woman Killed After Refusing Abortion, Her Body Burned**

A man was sentenced to life in prison for killing his pregnant ex-girlfriend, then putting her body in her car and setting the car on fire. Prosecutors in Van Nuys, Louisiana said he killed the woman for refusing to abort because of her religious beliefs.^{C85}

- **Boyfriend Shoots Pregnant Woman in Abdomen; Kills Her and Unborn Son**

A Toledo, Ohio, man was sentenced to life in prison for shooting his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen, killing her and her unborn son. A witness testified that the man had threatened to kill his girlfriend's unborn child, and the woman's mother said he asked her to talk her daughter into having an abortion.^{C86}

- **Teen Beaten to Death Because 22-Year-Old Boyfriend Didn't Want Her to Have Baby**

A high school junior was beaten to death by her 22-year-old boyfriend after she refused to have an abortion. According to police, the man hit the teen at least four times on the head with a bat and told them he did not want her to have the baby. He pleaded guilty after leading police to the girl's body, which he had buried under leaves in the woods. The man was sentenced to 22 years to life in prison.^{C87}

- **Virginia Man Detonates Bomb to Kill Pregnant Girlfriend and Unborn Child**

A man was sentenced to life in prison for killing his pregnant ex-girlfriend. She and her eight-month-old unborn child were killed by a bomb that was placed on her apartment steps and detonated by a model rocket engine.^{C88}

- **NFL Star Arranged Girlfriend's Death to Avoid Child Support**

A former NFL player was convicted for plotting the death of his pregnant girlfriend in a drive-by shooting. The 24-year-old woman was shot four times in the abdomen and died a month later. Prosecutors said the man, who was sentenced to 18 years in prison, wanted the woman killed so he wouldn't have to pay child support. The baby boy survived.^{C89}

- **Pregnant Woman Dies from Gunshot to Head, Newborn Son Dies Two Weeks Later**

A pregnant Colorado woman died two days after her boyfriend shot her in the head. Doctors were able to deliver her unborn son, who died two weeks later. The boyfriend, who was sentenced to life in prison, was charged in his girlfriend's death, but not that of her son, even though experts testified that the baby's fatal complications were a direct result of the shooting.^{C90}

| Her boyfriend said the baby would ruin his life.

- **Missouri Man Stabs Woman to Death the Day Before Her Delivery Date**

A Missouri man was sentenced to two life terms for stabbing a pregnant 21-year-old to death just a day before she was due to deliver. The woman's unborn baby girl died of blood loss.^{C91}

- **Utah Man Stabs Pregnant Girlfriend to Death**

A Utah man was convicted of two counts of capital murder for killing his pregnant girlfriend. The woman, who was 16 to 18 weeks pregnant, was stabbed to death and her body left near Utah's Rockport Reservoir, where it was discovered by a snowmobiler 16 days later.^{C92}

- **Pregnant Woman Murdered by Boyfriend Who "Didn't Want the Child"**

A Colorado man confessed to beating his pregnant girlfriend to death and disposing of her body by running her car off a steep embankment into a grove of trees, where it was later found by three children. He turned himself in and told the FBI that he killed the woman because he didn't want the child she was carrying.^{C93}

- **Man Shoots Pregnant Girlfriend in the Head Because She Won't Abort**

A Cincinnati man killed his pregnant girlfriend after she refused to have an abortion so he could marry another woman. The man shot his girlfriend in the head as she sat in her car with her seven-year-old daughter, who was uninjured. The woman and her six-week-old unborn child died. The man pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two consecutive nine-year prison terms, plus three years for using a gun during the crime.^{C94}

- **Man Shoots Ex-Sister-In-Law Pregnant With His Child, Wanted Her to Abort**

A Queens, NY man confessed in court to killing his former sister-in-law, who was pregnant with the man's child, by shooting her in the head. The woman's family testified that the man had repeatedly demanded she have an abortion, and investigators said he was afraid the woman would tell the man's brother of her pregnancy. The killer was sentenced to 30 years in prison.^{C95}

| Police said he plotted her death to avoid paying child support.

- **Ex-Husband Shoots Pregnant Wife Twice in Abdomen; Kills Mother and Child**

A Salt Lake City man turned himself in for the death of his ex-wife, who was shot to death at her workplace. According to testimony, the man told a co-worker that morning that he was going to kill his wife. A judge ruled that he could be charged for two murders after prosecutors argued that the number of shots fired and their location—two struck the woman in the abdomen—showed his intent to kill both her and her unborn baby.^{C96}

- **Man Convicted of Second-Degree Murder for Shooting Pregnant Girlfriend, Dumping Her in River**

A married father of four whose wife had recently given birth shot his pregnant girlfriend in the head and disposed of her

body in the Hudson River after she refused to abort. The woman was eight months pregnant with a baby boy and friends had recently thrown her a baby shower. Reports said the man had other children with different women and was in debt. He was convicted of second-degree murder.^{C97}

- **Woman Nearing Delivery Suffocated and Bludgeoned with Log**

A 22-year-old Bremard, Washington woman was close to delivery and had named her unborn daughter when she was raped, tortured, and killed by her ex-boyfriend. He received a life sentence for her murder, which took place in the home of the woman's parents. Police said that he suffocated her and bludgeoned her with a log.^{C98}

- **Abortionist Strangles Girlfriend After Learning of Her Pregnancy**

A California abortionist who was having an affair with a married woman was convicted of strangling the woman after learning she was pregnant. Prosecutors said the woman, a mother of two other children, had told the man she was pregnant the day before he killed her. He was convicted of second-degree murder.^{C99}

- **Pregnant Woman Stabbed Repeatedly in Abdomen, Strangled to Death**

Two young men were sentenced to life in prison for killing the pregnant girlfriend of one of them because he no longer wanted a relationship with her. The victim was pregnant and had told him he was the baby's father. Police said they beat the woman with a wrench and a broken hockey stick before burying her in a snowbank, possibly while she was still alive. They said the woman thought they were meeting to exchange Valentine's Day gifts, and was instead killed by her boyfriend and two teenage accomplices.^{C100}

- **Man Charged in Stabbing Death of Pregnant Girlfriend**

A New York City man pleaded guilty to second-degree murder after he strangled his pregnant 14-year-old daughter and stuffed her body in a boiler. Police said the girl was pregnant with his child. The man, who faced 25 years to life in prison, called police and confessed to the crime.^{C101}

| Her pregnancy hindered his career plans.

- **Pregnant Woman Killed in Front of Her Four-Year-Old Son**

A Milwaukee man was convicted of shooting his pregnant girlfriend in the head. The man was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree intentional homicide of the eight-month-old unborn child under Wisconsin's feticide law and sentenced to life in prison. The woman's four-year-old son witnessed the murder and identified the man as his mother's killer.^{C102}

- **Single Mother Shot to Death, Boyfriend Charged**

A single mother who was four to five months pregnant with her third child was shot in the head in her Baltimore-area apartment. Her boyfriend was charged with first- and second-degree murder in the deaths of the mother and the unborn child. According to court documents, the man had said the baby would "ruin his life" and that "he was going to do something about it."^{C103}

- **Man Who Shot His Pregnant Girlfriend Told His Other Girlfriend He Would "Take Care of" the Situation**

A Texas man was convicted for killing his pregnant woman and her five-week old unborn child in 2004. The man was dating another woman and allegedly told his other girlfriend that he would "take care of" the situation when he learned of the pregnancy. He was convicted of double murder and his conviction was upheld by the state Appeals Court in 2007.^{C104}

- **Pregnant Woman Strangled; Boyfriend Didn't Want to Pay Child Support**

A Mississippi man pleaded guilty to strangling his pregnant girlfriend and leaving her body in a burned out car in Memphis. The man was sentenced to life without parole in his girlfriend's death and a concurrent 20 years for the unborn

child's death. Prosecutors said he killed them because he didn't want to pay child support.^{C105}

- **Man Shoots Wife in Head, Reportedly Because He Found Her Pregnancy Inconvenient**

A Boston man committed suicide after his brother revealed to police that the man had shot his pregnant wife in a staged carjacking, causing her death and the death of their unborn son. The husband had claimed that the couple had been robbed and had apparently shot himself as well to make his story more convincing. He allegedly had not wanted the pregnancy because it hindered his career plans, and planned his wife's death in order to collect life insurance.^{C106}

- **Pregnant Mother Murdered; Dies After Son Delivered**

A Virginia man who was convicted of assaulting his girlfriend on three separate occasions killed her just months after a judge freed him on a suspended sentence. His girlfriend was pregnant at the time of her death and doctors managed to deliver her baby boy, but the mother never regained consciousness. The man was sentenced to life in prison for his girlfriend's death. The woman's mother was raising the child.^{C107}

Her boyfriend didn't want to pay child support.

- **Connecticut Woman Killed Two Weeks Before Due Date**

A Connecticut woman waged a successful campaign to implement "Jenny's Law" in Connecticut after her 24-year-old daughter was shot and killed outside a friend's home on New Year's Eve, just two weeks before her unborn son was due to be born. The daughter's ex-boyfriend was charged in her death. The daughter had told police a few months earlier that she was afraid her ex-boyfriend would kill her. The law allows Connecticut prosecutors to bring additional charges when an attack on a pregnant woman results in the death of her unborn child.^{C108}

- **Married Man Shoots Girlfriend After She Becomes Pregnant, Hopes to Involve Him in Baby's Life**

A Maryland man was sentenced to life in prison for shooting his pregnant girlfriend in her car in the parking lot of a shopping center, killing her and her unborn child. The man was married to another woman, but his girlfriend had wanted him to be involved in her child's life.^{C109}

- **Man Murders Pregnant Wife; Not Charged in Nine-Month-Old Unborn Child's Death**

A Maine man was convicted for murdering his pregnant wife, whom he stabbed at least 47 times. He was not charged in the death of the couple's 9-month-old unborn son.^{C110}

- **Man Kills Pregnant Girlfriend, Buries Her Body in Woods**

A man admitted to police that he killed his pregnant girlfriend and buried her body in the woods in Morristown, TN. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 25 years in prison without parole. Prosecutors were unable to charge him with the baby's death because they could not prove the unborn child was viable, as required by Tennessee law.^{C111}

- **Man Throws Pregnant Ex-Girlfriend Off Bridge onto Interstate**

A man pleaded guilty to murder after throwing his pregnant ex-girlfriend off an overpass onto the interstate near Crown Point, IN. According to police, he beat the woman with a steering wheel security lock after learning she was pregnant by another man, then drove to the overpass, dragged her from the car, and threw her off the bridge into oncoming traffic.^{C112}

- **Pregnant Woman Shot to Death by Boyfriend; Baby Boy Dies After Delivery**

An Indianapolis man was sentenced to two 55-year-prison terms for killing his girlfriend, who was nine months pregnant. Prosecutors said that he beat his girlfriend, then shot her after she fell to the floor. Her unborn son died the next day after being delivered by Caesarean.^{C113}

- **Police: Man Charged in Slaying of Pregnant Ex-Girlfriend Had Previously Forced Her to Abort**

Three North Carolina men were charged in the shooting death of one man's girlfriend, who was eight-and-a-half months

pregnant. Doctors delivered an unborn baby girl who died a month later. According to police records, several people said that the man had tried to hire a hit man to kill his girlfriend. One witness told police that he had previously forced his girlfriend to have three abortions and that he tried to get her to abort again.^{C114}

- **Brooklyn Man Arrested for Strangling Pregnant Girlfriend After She Refused to Abort**

The body of a pregnant 20-year-old college junior was found in Manhattan by a homeless man a few days after she disappeared. An autopsy showed that she had suffocated to death, probably from strangulation. Her boyfriend was convicted in her death. Police said they believed the man killed her because she refused to have an abortion. The woman's mother said that she had been planning to care for her grandchild while her daughter finished her education.^{C115}

- **Man Kills His Pregnant Girlfriend, Saw Her and His Baby as an “Irritant” That Would Jeopardize His Future**

A California man was convicted of shooting his girlfriend, who was eight-months pregnant, in the head and dumping her body in the bushes of a nearby park. Police said the man and two friends removed her body in the trunk of his car and that the man also had another pregnant girlfriend who was only 14. According to testimony at his trial, the man saw his girlfriend and her unborn child as an “irritant” that would “jeopardize” his music career. He was sentenced to life in prison.^{C116}

- **Basketball Coach Hires Two Men to Kill Teen He'd Impregnated, Afraid of Being Charged With Statutory Rape**

A 20-year-old elementary school basketball coach pleaded guilty to a capital murder charge after hiring two friends to kill a 14-year-old former player whom he'd impregnated. The two, one a 17-year-old teen, strangled the girl and dumped her body in a field where it was later discovered by farm workers. One of the accomplices said that the man told him he wanted the teen killed because she was pregnant with his child and that he was afraid her family would charge him with statutory rape.^{C117}

Learn More

Citations for the statistics quoted above are listed on the last page of this report. Due to space limitations, citations for individual cases (those numbered with a “C”) are posted online at www.theunchoice.com/forcedabortioncitations.htm.

These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. For more information, visit the TheUnChoice.com.



Portraits of Coercion

“I don’t know why they call it a choice.”



Every Tuesday a bus took students to Planned Parenthood.

**I was only 14.
School counselors arranged it.**

Every Tuesday a scheduled bus picked up students and took them to the Planned Parenthood clinic. School counselors arranged the visits. It was all so organized ... Still today, I feel like I did not decide to have the abortion ... I was only 14 ... The nurse said this was not the time to be asking questions, that I should have asked them sooner.

Gaylene, survivor of two post-abortion suicide attempts

He was furious and insisted the child be aborted.

When I told him, he was furious and insisted that the child be aborted as soon as possible ... I did not want to kill this baby, but my co-dependence and addiction to this man won out. I finally made an appointment with the abortion clinic.

Cynthia Greenwood

The counselor played on my fears.

She told us it would be very difficult for us to have a baby. She said she had three kids herself and the financial aspect was difficult for her. She never gave me alternatives or asked if I wanted to keep the baby; she just kept playing on my fears and making me believe that it would never work out.

Kelly

Everything in me was yelling, “No! No! No!”

Everything within me was yelling, “No! No! No!” But they all advised strongly against my having the child. So I allowed them to control the situation ... Inside, my voice was screaming, “Please do not do this!”

Lee

They all looked down on me for being pregnant.

There I was alone, having an abortion. I was really low ... I didn’t want an abortion ... But all the people at the abortion clinic were real helpful and friendly and tried to make you feel like you were doing the right thing. Nobody else in my life had tried to help me ... Everybody else would just look down their noses at me for being pregnant.

Cathe Birtwell

**I screamed that I didn’t want the abortion.
The doctor said, “Shut up and quit that yelling.”**

I was a victim of incest at 15 ... In spite of the pain and guilt I felt, it was far better to have a baby than the alternative—to kill it. I refused to have an abortion ... My father flew into an uncontrollable rage and demanded that I consent to the abortion ... [The doctor] asked three nurses to hold me while he strapped me to the bed ... I continued to scream that I didn’t want an abortion. He told me, “Shut up and quit that yelling!” ... I was violated by my father ... I was violated again by the abortionist.

Denise*

**He destroyed our apartment.
“Get rid of it. Now!”**

He destroyed our apartment ... and told me to get rid of it. Now! The whole time he cornered me ... throwing things and killing me with his words. The abortion ripped me apart. Any strength I had to leave the abuse was torn away from me.

Mary

**My mother arranged my abortion.
Our pastor had assured her that it was fine.**

My mother arranged my abortion. She didn’t like my boyfriend and wanted to protect my “reputation” ... Our pastor had assured her that having an abortion was fine. No one helped me ...

Jane Crawford

My parents locked me in the house for two weeks.

My parents told me I was to get an abortion. They locked me in the house and took the phone off the hook for two weeks. They told me not to tell anyone I was pregnant ... Two weeks later they took me 240 miles to Spokane for the abortion ...

Julie Woodley

My husband said he’d leave if I didn’t abort.

[My husband] told me, “Either you have an abortion, or I’ll leave you.”

Sandra Morean

My mom said that I must abort.

I told my boyfriend I was pregnant and he acted as if he were happy. He left town a short time after that leaving me to face the pressure of what to do. My mother figured out that I was pregnant ... and she told me I must abort. She said my life would be ruined if I stayed pregnant. She also sent me to Planned Parenthood [and two counselors] ... who all agreed with my mother and counseled me to abort. I had no one who said that I could give life to my child ...

Carla Matrisch

The doctor begged me to abort.

[The doctor said that the medication I'd been taking] causes birth defects. He was very concerned about my decision not to have an abortion and literally pleaded with me ... "Please reconsider ... There are so many dangers. You're a fool to think of not aborting." [I've suspected he was afraid I'd sue him if the baby had birth defects] ... My decision came from a seed the doctor had planted ... that I should have that abortion. He was so serious that it frightened me.

Deborah Hulebak

Just to get them off my back . . .

I finally told everyone that I would have the abortion just to get them off my back.

Anonymous, survivor of post-abortion suicide attempt

I sped away—my mother caught up with me.

When I told my mom I was pregnant, she immediately made the appointment [for an abortion]. I kept hanging the phone up on her and she kept re-dialing. Finally she got through ... The next morning, I crept downstairs, got into my car and sped away—she quickly followed and finally caught up with me.

Laura O'Brien

His family pushed for abortion.

His family pushed for abortion—because I was in their home and they were having to help care for my children while I was bedridden ... I felt obligated, totally helpless. A part of me died that day.

Lori Rachuleta

After making us feel like dirt, she reassured us Medicaid would pay for the abortion.

Since [my husband] was unable to find another job, we had to go on welfare ... When our caseworker found out I was pregnant with a third child, she was just disgusted with us. She urged us to have an abortion, saying, "You just can't go around having babies all the rest of your life." After making us feel like dirt, she reassured us that Medicaid would pay for the abortion.

From that point on, there was pressure from everyone around me to have the abortion. The only one that didn't want me to do it was my mother-in-law who was herself a survivor of a failed abortion attempt. Confusion mounted, tension and pressure took control, and I became another victim of "free choice."

Lorijo Nerad

I wanted to keep my child but I had no say.

My mother took me to [the clinic] ... They told her ... abortion was the best decision. Everyone made the decision for me. I really wanted to keep my child even at that age. At that time, parents made the decision for a minor. I really had no say.

Tambra Plummer

My relatives made the arrangements.

The baby's father retracted his marriage proposal as soon as he found out I was pregnant. I had no money, no medical insurance, and didn't realize that there were places to turn to for help ... My relatives [made] all the arrangements ... Everyone was there to give advice before the abortion, but afterwards I was on my own. If I had had love, support, and above all, the true facts, I would have never even considered an abortion. The pain never goes away.

Carolyn Walton

It wasn't *my* choice. It should be called "Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice."

No one would support me ... The worst day of my life got closer and closer ... I think in more cases than not, it isn't the woman's choice. It should be called "Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice ..." I needed someone to tell me that it was possible to keep my baby, but no one did ...

Amanda

*name has been changed

Citations

Citations for the statistics in this report are listed below. Due to space limitations, citations for individual cases (those numbered with a “C”) are posted online at www.theunchoice.com/forcedabortioncitations.htm.

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