

# The Eye on Abortion

April 2005



## PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S "TEENWIRE": SYSTEMATICALLY MISLEADING YOUTH

Dear Pro-life Friends,

**Planned Parenthood (PP) is doing all they can to "help" (a.k.a. deceive and coerce) your children to abort**, while making sure you, the parents, don't find out! After all, they know better than you do anyway...right?

Is this an unfair characterization of PP's work? Read on...

On the website that PP has created specifically for teens, **WWW.TEENWIRE.COM**, one young person asked the self-proclaimed "experts" of PP this question:

	<p><b><u>Ask the Experts</u></b> Our experts answer real questions from teens!</p>
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*"How much will it cost me if I need to get an abortion?"*

How do the "experts" answer? They inform the youth of the costs involved with receiving an abortion, but they go a step further. They also inform teens that they may run into the snag of **Parental Consent or Notification**. These laws are intended to ensure that parents know what is going on with their children in case their child is considering receiving an abortion (laws vary from state to state).

For instance, in the case of **Parental Consent**, a youth would be required to tell one or both parents that they are going to have an abortion. At that point, the parents could either consent to the abortion, or have the opportunity to refuse giving consent and then the child would not be allowed to abort.

In the case of **Parental Notification**, a teenager would be required to tell one or both of her parents about the abortion she plans to go through with as well. The difference is that at that point the parents could **not** legally stop the child from aborting, they would merely be informed of the "choice" their child is about to make.

But never fear! PP informs teens of every loophole available so they can get around this minor speed bump called mom and dad! PP shows a form entitled **Parental Consent and Notification Laws** on their *Teenwire* website. If you take the time to see it, you will notice how incredibly "helpful" they are in each instance where there are restrictions involved. Do they ever even HINT to teens in this document that they should possibly consider informing their parents of their plans to end their child's life? No.

And why should they? That would only work to turn business away that they would have had otherwise. The love of money truly *is* the root of all evil.

## PP "CHOOSES" TO TEACH CHILDREN FALSEHOODS AS FACTS

Which brings me to another answer that the "experts" of PP gave to another child's important question:

Your Question:

Dear Experts,  
Is abortion safe?  
Greenie

The Answer:

Dear greenie,

Yes. Abortion is a very safe procedure. It's about twice as safe as a shot of penicillin, and is 11 times safer than giving birth. Contrary to what you may have heard, abortion does not increase the risk of

- breast cancer
- miscarriage
- ectopic or tubal pregnancy
- birth defects, premature birth, or low birth weight in future pregnancies

The fact is that nearly half of all women in the United States will have an abortion by the time they are 45 years old.

Yes, you heard right. PP not only knows better than parents, but they also know better than well known scientific studies! (See Endnote) <sup>i</sup> Regarding the claim that "abortion is 11 times safer than giving birth," Finland's National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health conducted a reliable study that proves that *abortion* is actually four times *more* dangerous! <sup>ii</sup> (Released in 1997 by STAKES, the statistical analysis unit of the Center.)

In the same study, researchers found that compared to women who carried to term, women who aborted in the year prior to their deaths were 60 percent more likely to die of natural causes, seven times more likely to die of suicide, four times more likely to die of injuries related to accidents, and 14 times more likely to die from homicide. (Higher death rates due to accidents and homicide may be linked to higher rates of suicidal/risk-taking behavior.)

David C. Reardon, Ph.D. said of the study, "This is an impeccable, record-based study. It proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that abortion is not safer than childbirth."

In the last paragraph of PP's answer you can almost hear them say, "Everybody's doing it," as if *that* somehow justifies abortion. I hope "Greenie" isn't too "green" to see through these lies. PP has either researched the facts *very* poorly, or they simply intend to mislead teenagers into having abortions.

### **THOUGHT TO PONDER:**

**Your child cannot have her ears pierced at the mall without your presence and consent, but your child can have her own child killed inside of her, by a perfect stranger, and you may never even find out about it (unless complications follow)!**

## PRO-CHOICE VS. PRO-LIFE: PP's SPIN

As you probably know, along with their unreasonable slogans, PP pushes other misleading terminology onto unsuspecting listeners. The student below has a question about the meaning behind the terms "Pro-choice" and "Pro-life". Leave it to PP to set the record straight (in their own crooked way):

**" It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble."  
Luke 17: 2**

### Your Question:

Dear Experts,

**Can you explain what pro-choice means and pro-life means? I'm supposed to do it for a class. Thanks.**

Jamika

### The Answer:

Dear Jamika,

Good question. People who are pro-choice believe that women have the right to decide when and whether to have children, based on their own moral and religious beliefs, even though they themselves may not choose abortion as an option for an unplanned pregnancy.

People who are anti-choice oppose abortion and often call themselves pro-life. Many people who are anti-choice do not believe that women should be able to choose abortion under any circumstances, even if she has been raped or if carrying the pregnancy to term may put her life in danger. They also disagree with most medical authorities about the definition of pregnancy. They mistakenly believe that pregnancy begins with the fertilization of the egg. Most authorities believe that pregnancy begins when the implantation of the fertilized egg into the lining of the uterus is complete.

Where to begin? First of all, the child asked what the terms "Pro-choice" and "Pro-life" mean, not "Pro-choice" and "Anti-choice!" Then, they go on to use the hard cases of rape and the life of the mother to try to convince the child that pro-lifers, er, uh, I mean "anti-choicers" are cruel, heartless people.

Next, they make an incredible attempt to convince the questioning youth that pro-life individuals are confused about the basic facts of embryology and don't even understand when "pregnancy" begins! (Side note: There is no such thing as a "fertilized egg." Once the egg is fertilized it instantly becomes a new human life, a zygote.<sup>iii</sup>) Despite PP's unsubstantiated assertions, the fact that life begins at fertilization has been well established in embryology.<sup>iv</sup>

## PP IS NOT THE ONLY VOICE...

Thankfully, there are several good pro-life organizations out there that inform people of all ages of the REAL facts surrounding abortion, and to equip them and inspire them to fight abortion in an active way in their own lives. That is the very mission of Self-Evident Truth, to equip pro-lifers and educate the public. Your support helps us accomplish that goal!

Something that *everyone* can do is inform young people, as much as possible, of the facts about abortion before they ever turn to PP to receive the answers to their questions. As you can see, the answers PP provides are not based in truth, love or the best interest of children... born or unborn.

For the sake of the unborn and their parents,

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**"Train up a child in  
the way he should go,  
even when he is old  
he will not depart from  
it."  
Proverbs 22: 6**

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<sup>i</sup> Breast Cancer- *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Vol. 86. No. 21, 11/2/94  
Miscarriages- Richardson & Dickson, "Effects of Legal Termination on Subsequent Pregnancy,"  
*British Med. Jour.*, vol. 1, 1976, pp. 1303-4  
Ectopic Pregnancy- *American Journal of Public Health*. 1998; 88: 401-405  
Birth Defects- *American Journal of Epidemiology* 143(1): 12, 1996  
Premature Delivery- *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 94(6): 948-953 (12/99)  
Low Birth Weight- *International Journal of Epidemiology* 2000 Feb; 29(1): 100-106

<sup>ii</sup> Gissler, M., et. al., "Pregnancy-associated deaths in Finland 1987-1994 -- definition problems and benefits of record linkage," *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* 76:651-657 (1997)

<sup>iii</sup> *Human Embryology, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, William J. Larsen, Churchill Livingstone, 2001, p. 1-3

<sup>iv</sup> *Ibid.*