

Frequently Asked Questions/Excuses Given by Abortion-Minded Women

“I’m just here for a pregnancy confirmation test or ultrasound today.”

- Free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds are available at the three pregnancy resource centers in Memphis - Life Choices (2 locations), the Confidential Care Mobile Unit, and Birthright (2 locations). **See more details on the “FREE Resources in Memphis to Help Women in Crisis” page** **The abortion clinics do not provide these services for free, so you can try to persuade the woman to leave and go to a pregnancy resource center and save some money today.**

“I’m just here today exploring my options. I’m not sure what to do.”

- Free, confidential, Christ-centered counseling is available for women in crisis at the three pregnancy resource centers in Memphis - Life Choices (2 locations), the Confidential Care Mobile Unit, and Birthright (2 locations). **See more details on the “FREE Resources in Memphis to Help Women in Crisis” page**

“I’ve already paid for my abortion (or consultation) today. Can you reimburse me if I decide not to have my abortion?”

- Yes. Memphis Coalition for Life is committed to saving lives and helping women in crisis no matter the cost. If a woman says she is not willing to change her mind because of the money she spent, **you can tell her we will reimburse her for the money**. No child should die because of \$275 - \$1,000. We will find a way to help her get her money back.

“I can’t afford a child right now. I just lost my job and don’t even have money to pay my mortgage and feed my other children.”

- There are free resources available to help women financially. MIFA Memphis has a form online that people can fill out requesting financial assistance with their mortgage, rent, or utility bills. The Catholic Charities of West TN has a food pantry available to help women with groceries etc. Memphis Coalition for Life can also help connect women to other resources so they can have the help they need to find a new job, file for government assistance, or find any other help they need.

“I already have young children at home and don’t feel like I can handle another child right now.”

- Try to talk to the woman about the support systems in her life to help her - maybe the child’s father is around, or she has a sister/mother/aunt/cousin who is able and willing to help. Depending on her income level, there are also government assistance programs that can help her pay for childcare for children ages 6 weeks - 5 years old (Memphis Coalition for Life can provide more information on this if needed). **One by One Ministries** can also connect her to a mentor who can help her find childcare and walk through the pregnancy with her.

“I’m in school and want to finish my degree before I have a baby. I’m just not ready yet.”

- Try to encourage her that she is a strong, powerful woman and has what it takes to finish her degree while being a mother. Talk about night classes and/or online classes and the fact that she could take care of her baby during the day and then leave it with a family member or friend at night while taking classes. There is also government financial support for women finishing their degrees while parenting, so she would have help monetarily (Memphis Coalition for Life can provide more information on this if needed).

“I don’t want to be a single parent.”

- Like the scenario above, try to encourage her that she is strong enough to be a single mother and remind her of other support systems in her life. If she feels she is truly alone and cannot parent, talk about the **brave, beautiful decision of adoption**. Open adoption is a wonderful option where the birth parent gets to choose the adoptive family and gets to choose how much contact to continue having with their child after the adoption. Some parents are able to still see their baby at birthday parties and family dinners etc. even after the adoption is finalized. **Life Choices** is a certified adoption agency and facilitates open adoption for women in crisis.

Helpful Tips for Talking to Women in Crisis

How to initiate a conversation:

*If a woman going into the abortion clinic makes eye-contact with you or seems receptive to talking to you, here are a few things you could say to her:

- “Hello! We have information about free healthcare in Memphis! We’d love to talk to you about it!”
- “Hello! Would you like a free ultrasound or pregnancy test today? We have information about where you can get one. We’d love to talk to you about it!”
- “Hello! We have information about free healthcare for you. We’d love to share it with you! We just want you to know we care about you and are here to help you. You are not alone!”

**Use the information about free services to draw her over to talk to you, and then share a pink “Resources” card with her. Always keep in mind that you want her to know she is not alone, you care about her, and you are here to help her. Let her know she is loved, not judged. She will be scared and assume that you are here to condemn her and call her names. Being peaceful and loving is the best thing you can do. Do not harass her by continuing to try to talk to her if she says she does not want to listen. Offer the free services to show her she is loved and not alone, and then let her make the choice whether or not she wants to continue the conversation.*

When talking to a woman in crisis:

- As 40 Days for Life prayer warriors, we are focused on saving vulnerable unborn children. However, for the woman in crisis, she is thinking about herself and the overwhelming challenges she is facing right now. She does not view her baby as a blessing yet but instead believes it is a problem. Because of this, when talking to an abortion-vulnerable woman, you want to use the **“Mom, Baby, God” model**.

This means:

- 1) Start the conversation focused on the mom. Let her know you care about her and are here for her today. Tell her about all the free resources available to help her and give her a pink “Resources” card. Once she feels safe knowing you care about **her**, then you can...
- 2) Bring her baby into the conversation. Talk about her being chosen as a mother and how special this is. Maybe mention how much her child will love her and what joy it will add to her life. You can also bring up useful fetal development information at this point (*e.g. a baby’s heart starts beating at 3 weeks; at 7-8 weeks, a baby begins moving in the womb; by 9 weeks, a baby can suck its thumb*)
- 3) Finally, bring God into the conversation and remind the woman that He loves her and is here for her today. God loves her so much He died for her and wants to offer her help and salvation in the midst of her crisis.

**It's important to note that sometimes all it takes is step 1 for the mom to decide to leave the abortion clinic and get free help at a pregnancy resource center. Often just telling the woman she is cared for and is not alone + sharing the free help with her is enough to get her to change her mind, without ever bringing the baby and God into the conversation.*

FREE Resources in Memphis to help Women in Crisis:

- **LOCAL PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS:**

- 1. **Life Choices of Memphis**

- 2 locations - Poplar Avenue and Raleigh Lagrange
 - Free Services Offered:
 - Pregnancy Confirmation Tests
 - Limited Obstetrical Ultrasound
 - STI Testing, Diagnosis, & Treatment (****ONLY FOR WOMEN WITH A POSITIVE PREGNANCY TEST****)
 - Education on Abortion, the Morning After pill, and the Abortion Pill
 - Presentation of the Gospel
 - Free counseling regarding options & pregnancy counseling
 - Education on Sexual Health
 - Help for Practical Needs
 - Adoption Plans (Life Choices is a certified adoption agency)

- 2. **Birthright of Memphis**

- Free Services Offered:
 - Pregnancy confirmation tests
 - Individual and group counseling and parenting classes
 - Educational resources and prenatal information
 - Shelter and social agency referrals
 - Adoption and community-services information
 - Gifts for every pregnant mom: a set of clothing, linens and sometimes toiletries for a newborn

- 3. **Confidential Care Mobile Unit (a.k.a. Memphis Women's Mobile Clinic)**

- Free Services Offered:
 - Pregnancy confirmation tests
 - Ultrasounds
 - Confidential counseling
 - Presentation of the gospel

- 4. **Southaven Care Center**

- Free Services Offered:
 - Pregnancy confirmation tests
 - Ultrasounds
 - Confidential counseling
 - Education and parenting classes

- Post-abortion support
- Infant supplies
- Referrals for education, financial, housing, legal, medical, adoption, and community assistance
- Adoption services
- Translation services
- Transportation services

5. Memphis Morning Center

- Free Services Offered:
 - **Prenatal care all 40 weeks of pregnancy**
 - Lab work
 - Ultrasounds
 - Postpartum care
 - Spiritual care
 - Education classes

LOCAL EMOTIONAL/SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS:

1. One by One Ministries

- Free Services Offered:
 - Connecting expectant mothers with trained volunteers from local churches to mentor the mother and help with her newborn baby
 - Providing moms with parenting tips and life skills training
 - Sharing the gospel
 - Connecting families to church and community support networks

2. Embrace Grace

- Equips local churches with the resources needed to love and support single pregnant women and new mothers
 - Local Groups:
 - 1) Embrace Grace - St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Cordova, TN
 - (901) 264-9685 or [on Facebook](#)
 - 2) Embrace Grace - Gateway Baptist Church, Atoka, TN
 - (901) 496-0882 or [on Facebook](#)

*All of the resources listed above can be found in a condensed format on the pink "MCFL - Resources Handout" card

****You can always refer women to Memphis Coalition for Life for more information on these services. We will connect each woman to the specific help she needs + follow up with them and make sure they feel supported going forward. Our phone number is (901) 450-5433****