



## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE: CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS V. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

### **WARNING: CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS (CPC) DO NOT PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE.**

- CPCs are organizations that seek to discourage people facing unintended pregnancies from accessing abortion care.
- CPCs often advertise a full range of reproductive healthcare services, but they **do not** provide abortion or abortion referral, and usually do not provide birth control or other forms of contraceptives.

### **IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO UNDERSTAND YOUR ABORTION OPTIONS, BE AWARE OF THE LIMITS TO THE INFORMATION AND CARE A CPC PROVIDES.**

- Some CPCs are not licensed medical clinics.
  - You have the right to know whether a facility is a licensed medical clinic and whether the facility will perform or refer you for an abortion *before* you go to the clinic.
  - Unlicensed CPCs staffed by non-medical personnel are not required to keep your medical records private.
- Some CPCs offer ultrasounds even though they may not have a healthcare professional on staff or onsite.
  - Only a licensed healthcare professional, like a doctor, nurse, or ultrasound specialist can accurately tell you how many weeks pregnant you are.

### **DO YOUR RESEARCH AND ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS BEFORE GOING TO A PREGNANCY CLINIC TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR ABORTION OPTIONS.**

- Research the clinic online, or call the clinic, before making an appointment. Online reviews sometimes provide information about prior patient experiences that may be helpful.
- When researching a clinic, questions you might ask include:
  - Is the facility licensed? If yes, what type of license?
  - Will you be seen by a licensed provider? If yes, what type of licensed provider (nurse, doctor, etc.)?
  - Does the facility perform or refer persons for abortions?
  - What is the cost of a visit? Does the clinic take insurance?



- o Will the clinic keep your information confidential and not disclose your visit to anyone?
- If a clinic does not provide clear answers to your questions, consider going to a different clinic.
- Be wary of clinics that attempt to delay your appointments. If you are considering or seeking an abortion, timing is important.
- Contact programs to assist you with locating a provider that meets your needs:
  - o [ACCESS Reproductive Justice](#) connects people to free and low-cost programs that pay for reproductive healthcare for people living in, traveling to, or traveling from California to receive an out-of-state abortion.
  - o [Women’s Reproductive Rights Assistance Project](#) provides direct and logistical support, transportation assistance, abortion appointment navigation, and other resources.
  - o The [National Abortion Federation](#) maintains a list of abortion providers.
  - o To access additional services, look for a Title X family planning clinic near you. Title X family planning clinics are state and federally funded facilities that provide access to a broad range of family planning and preventive health services, such as contraception, pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted disease testing, breast and cervical cancer screening, regardless of your ability to pay. Locate a Title X clinic near you at <https://opa-fpclinicdb.hhs.gov/>.
- When you arrive for your appointment, make sure you are at the correct clinic. CPCs are sometimes located near a reproductive healthcare clinic that provides abortion care.

If you believe you have been the victim or target of deceptive, misleading, unfair, or unlawful conduct, please immediately file a complaint at [oag.ca.gov/crisis-pregnancy-center-complaint](https://oag.ca.gov/crisis-pregnancy-center-complaint).

\*\*\*\*\*

This bulletin was issued by the Healthcare Rights and Access (HRA) Section of the California Department of Justice. HRA works proactively to increase and protect the affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare in California. HRA attorneys monitor and contribute to various areas of the Attorney General’s healthcare work, including consumer rights; anticompetitive consolidation in the healthcare market; anticompetitive drug pricing; nonprofit healthcare transactions; privacy issues; civil rights, such as racial equity and discrimination in healthcare, reproductive rights and LGBTQ healthcare-related rights; and public health work on tobacco, e-cigarettes, and other products.