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## **MEMBERS: NATIONAL ABORTION FEDERATION**

# **DISCLOSURE OF ALTERNATIVES, BENEFITS AND RISKS**

The decision to have an abortion should only be made after all of the alternatives, benefits and risks have been carefully considered. Most of all, the decision should be your decision. If you are feeling pressured or forced into having an abortion, please let the Center know so we can help you make the best decision for you.

***Please initial to the left of each section to indicate that you have read and fully understand the possible alternatives to, benefits and risks of abortion.***

### **\_\_\_\_\_ ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION**

You could choose to carry the fetus to full term and have the baby. After giving birth you would have another decision. You could take on the responsibilities of parenthood or arrange to have the baby adopted. If you decide to carry the baby full-term, the Center can provide you with the phone numbers of local agencies that can assist you with the questions you may have. Parenthood has both benefits and risks which are different for each individual depending upon her unique circumstances. The benefits, risks and emotional effects of continuing a pregnancy in your situation should be carefully considered before deciding to have an abortion.

### **\_\_\_\_\_ BENEFITS OF CHOOSING AN ABORTION**

Ending a pregnancy before it has continued too far has various benefits, depending upon the individual. Your reason for choosing an abortion may be based on a number of circumstances: age, income, future plans, moral and ethical beliefs, relationship with the father, or health. Abortion allows a pregnancy to be postponed until a more suitable time for all concerned. Abortion usually allows you to continue your current way of life a short time after the procedure, where pregnancy and childbirth will alter your life-style for months and/or years.

### **\_\_\_\_\_ RISKS OF THE PROCEDURE**

The medical and mental risks of full-term pregnancy and delivery are considered by most medical specialists to be greater than the risks associated with a surgical abortion. As with any surgery, an abortion involves a certain amount of risk. In rare cases, death can occur through no fault of the physician or medical attendants.

**I have read and fully understand the "DISCLOSURE OF ALTERNATIVES, BENEFITS AND RISKS" information.**

Patient \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /20 \_\_\_\_\_