



THE LIFE BOOK

ABORTION: WHY IT'S NEVER MEDICALLY NECESSARY

THE HARD CASE FACED : ABORTION AND RAPE

THE FACTS OF LIFE

POEM : A YOUNG LIFE IS GONE

THE LEGAL SITUATION EXPLAINED

PRO-LIFE INFORMATION BOOKLET

ABORTION NEVER SAVES A MOTHER'S LIFE - IT JUST KILLS A BABY

CARE FOR MOTHERS

The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists guides Irish doctors who care for expectant mothers. The Institute's Chairman, Professor John Bonner, told a Dáil Committee in 2000:

"It would never cross an obstetrician's mind that intervening in a case of pre-eclampsia, cancer of the cervix or ectopic pregnancy is abortion. They are not abortion as far as the professional is concerned, these are medical treatments that are essential to save the life of the mother."

NEVER A NEED FOR ABORTION

Abortion is never needed to treat pregnant women or to safeguard their lives or health.

That means that, while abortion is banned in Ireland, all necessary treatments for conditions which may arise during a pregnancy are always offered to Irish mothers. So conditions such as cancer or ectopic pregnancy are always fully treated - and that's a fact.

This is because these treatments are not, and have never been, considered abortion. The intention is to treat the condition, NOT to kill the baby.

For example: ectopic pregnancy occurs when the baby implants outside the womb. Sadly, the baby's life cannot be saved but removing the baby is not an abortion, since the intention is not to harm the baby. Likewise Pre-Eclamptic Toxemia is associated with a rise in blood pressure which may result in seizures. If necessary, an early delivery will be induced which will save the life of the mother and, hopefully, that of her child. The intent is always to save life, not to destroy it.

A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair, smiling warmly as she holds a newborn baby wrapped in a white blanket. The woman's face is in profile, looking down at the baby with a joyful expression. The baby's face is partially visible, looking towards the camera.

OUR BAN ON ABORTION HAS RESULTED IN IRELAND BEING THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR A MOTHER TO HAVE A BABY, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS (2007).

CANCER

Cancer can occur in a small number of pregnant women - usually in less than 1% of pregnancies. When it does, it may be necessary to perform surgery or to perscribe chemotherapy. This treatment is never withheld from expectant mothers who need it. Some of these women ask for their treatments to be delayed until a time when their baby is unlikely to be adversely affected by such treatment. That decision is always left to the mother.

In the rare case of uterine cancer in pregnancy it is necessary to perform a hysterectomy to remove the cancerous womb. A hysterectomy in this case is not, and never has been, considered an abortion in Irish medicine or law. Every effort will be made to save the baby and the intent of the treatment is to remove the cancer - not to harm the baby.

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ABORTION

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

A 2009 New Zealand study found that 85% of women who had abortions suffered negative emotional reactions.

Psychological effects of abortion can include;

- Requirement of psychological treatment
- Relationship problems
- Substance abuse
- Suicide and deliberate self-harm

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- Higher risk of Breast Cancer
- Uterine Rupture
- Cervical damage
- Pelvic infection & disease
- Infertility
- Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage
- Death: hundreds of women currently die from so-called safe, legal abortion. Causes of death include bleeding, infection and blood clots



HEART DISEASE

The incidence of heart disease in pregnancy is extremely low. In the largest maternity hospital in Europe (Holles Street Hospital in Dublin) there were only 558 cases of heart condition (both mild and severe) to 159,680 births between 1969 and 1990.

PREGNANCY DOES NOT CAUSE OR AGGRAVATE THESE CONDITIONS

Abortion would NOT have benefited any of these mothers. Numerous reports of heart surgery during pregnancy include successful correction of most types of congenital and acquired heart disease.

Successful pregnancy following heart transplantation is increasingly common.

Rape & Abortion

Rape is a terrible crime of violence against women. This appalling and destructive violation often leaves the victim severely traumatised. Sometimes she is physically damaged - more often, emotionally. Anger, fear, guilt, disgust and loss of self-esteem can follow. This happens even when there is no pregnancy as a result of rape.

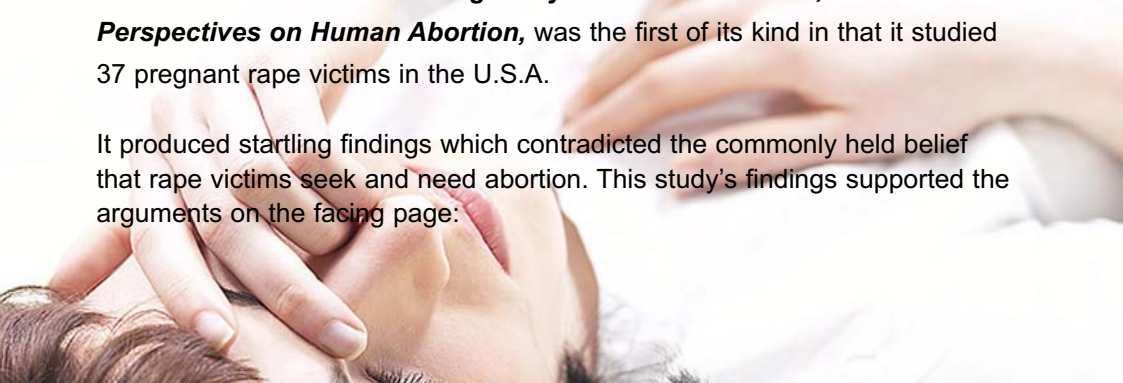
By its nature, rape is a very emotional topic. It rightly evokes feelings of revulsion in decent people. However, this can lead to unfounded judgments with regard to pregnancy as a result of rape, however. Rape victims who are pregnant are offered the quick-fix solution of abortion. Is this what they really want or need?

PREGNANCY FROM RAPE IS EXTREMELY RARE

- The woman may be infertile at the time. She may be in the infertile phase of her monthly cycle, too old or too young to conceive
- The trauma of sexual assault is likely to inhibit ovulation
- Rape does not always involve a complete act of sexual intercourse
- Statistics worldwide show that the rate of pregnancy arising from sexual assault is 0.1%

Because pregnancy from rape is so rare, very little research is available on sexual assault and pregnancy. A study by Dr. Sandra Mahkorn entitled ***Pregnancy and Sexual Assault, New Perspectives on Human Abortion***, was the first of its kind in that it studied 37 pregnant rape victims in the U.S.A.

It produced startling findings which contradicted the commonly held belief that rape victims seek and need abortion. This study's findings supported the arguments on the facing page:



No Solution

○ In Dr. Mahkorn's study most pregnant sexual assault victims refused abortion. These women didn't see abortion as a solution to the trauma they had suffered. Rape victims need long-term care and support. Society wants to believe that by killing the baby, it offers a solution to the assaulted woman. But abortion does not make you unpregnant - it makes you the mother of a dead baby.

○ Abortion, by its nature, is intrusive and violent, and is a second violation of the victim's body. It can produce the same kind of anger, fear, guilt and self-doubt that follows rape. For many women, abortion, like rape, is an experience they will never forget. Most women in Dr. Mahkorn's study felt that abortion was an act of violence and that issues relating to the rape experience, not the pregnancy, were of primary concern in counselling and rehabilitation.

○ A 2005 Finnish study found that the suicide rate among women who had abortions was six times higher than that of women who had given birth in the prior year. One reason is that a pregnant suicidal mother is usually unwilling to accept the responsibility for taking the child's life as well as her own.

○ Abortion, by acting as judge and jury, imposes a death sentence on an innocent child for the crime of her father. The baby is a distinct human being, she is not to blame for the method of her conception. Many women in Dr. Mahkorn's study spoke poignantly and courageously of their desire to protect the child in their womb from such a brutal death.

Towards Healing

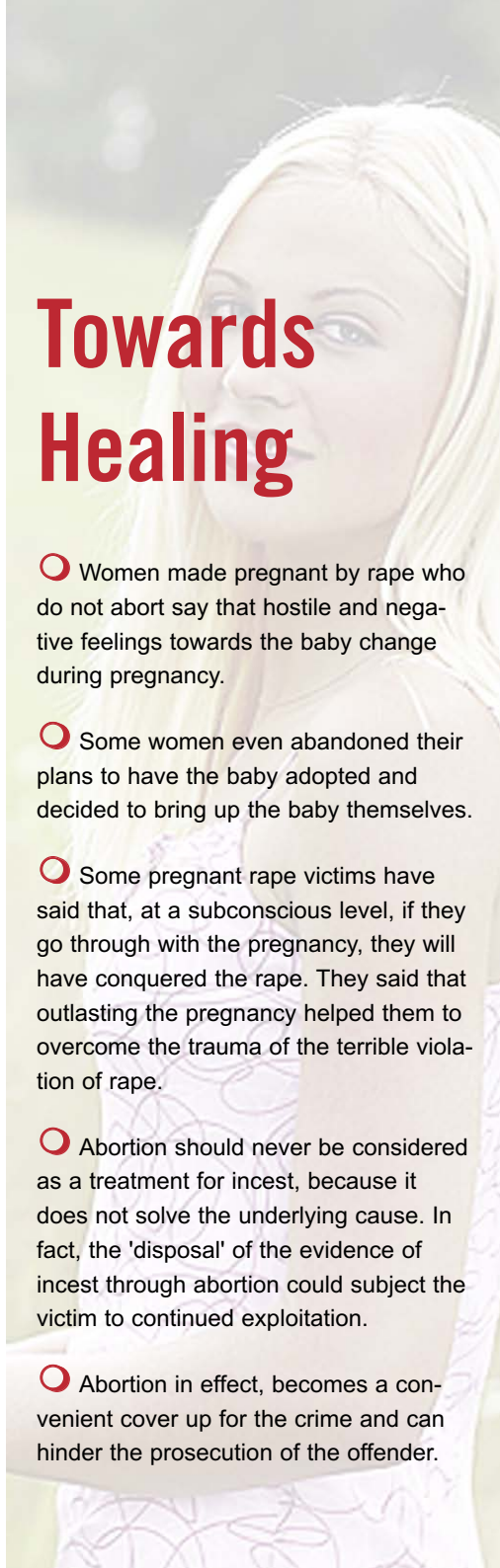
○ Women made pregnant by rape who do not abort say that hostile and negative feelings towards the baby change during pregnancy.

○ Some women even abandoned their plans to have the baby adopted and decided to bring up the baby themselves.

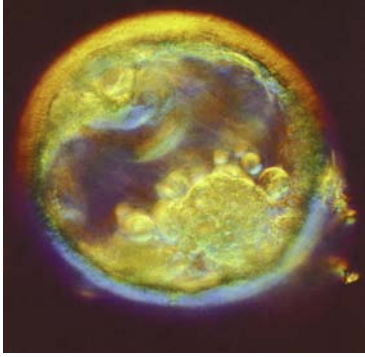
○ Some pregnant rape victims have said that, at a subconscious level, if they go through with the pregnancy, they will have conquered the rape. They said that outlasting the pregnancy helped them to overcome the trauma of the terrible violation of rape.

○ Abortion should never be considered as a treatment for incest, because it does not solve the underlying cause. In fact, the 'disposal' of the evidence of incest through abortion could subject the victim to continued exploitation.

○ Abortion in effect, becomes a convenient cover up for the crime and can hinder the prosecution of the offender.



THE FACTS OF LIFE



A new individual receives 23 chromosomes from each parent. He or she is truly a unique individual human being, never to be repeated. A new person has been created. Any further formation is purely a matter of development, growth and maturation.

2 Month Old Male Swimming in Amniotic Fluid

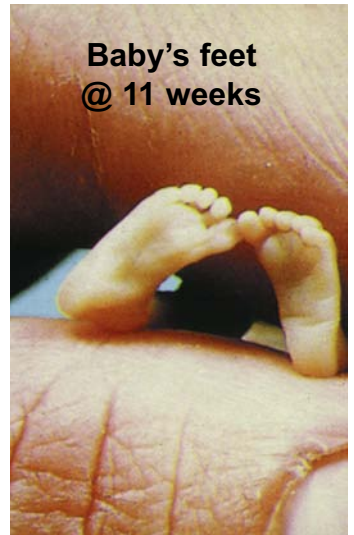


Six weeks after fertilisation, the design for a new human person begins to show results. The cells are seething with life, the heart is beating, blood is being pumped through the umbilical cord and the whole embryo is in constant motion. The embryonic heart has 140-150 fluttering beats a minute - twice as many as its mother's.

“ While giving an anaesthetic for a ruptured ectopic pregnancy.... I was handed what I believe was the smallest living human ever seen... this tiny human was perfectly developed with long tapering fingers, feet and toes... the baby was extremely alive and swam about the sac approximately one time per second, with a natural swimmers stroke.”

Paul Rockwell, M.D.

**Baby's feet
@ 11 weeks**



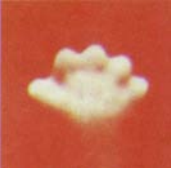
7 weeks



13 weeks



7 weeks



9 weeks



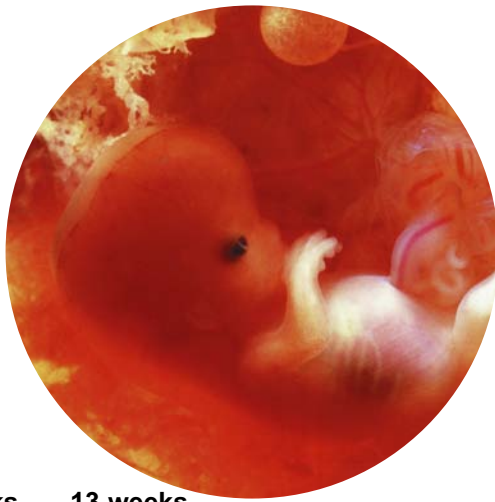
13 weeks



Arms and hands develop earlier than legs and feet, but by 2 months the lines of palms and footprints are already engraved in the skin.



The umbilical cord - the lifeline from baby to mother



11 week old unborn child

The baby is about 2 inches long and at 3/4 oz weighs as much as his first birthday card! With his infant-like proportions and profile, this baby looks like a perfect miniature doll. But unlike any doll, he's become very expressive, wrinkling his forehead, turning his head, opening and closing his tiny lips.



Baby Ruairí at 6 months

20 week old unborn child

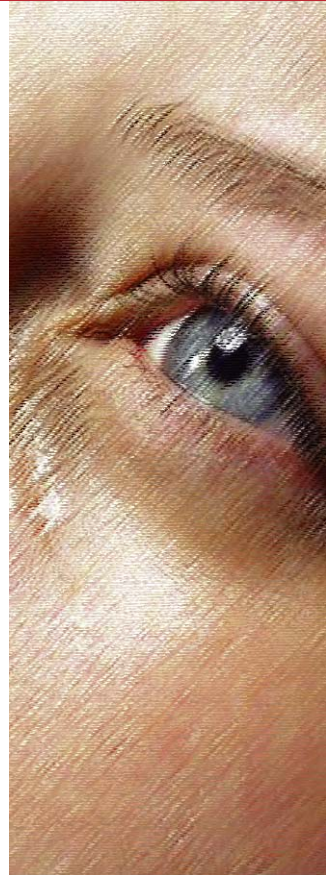
Though still a lightweight at only 800 - 900g (6 inches long) this baby is complete, needing only nourishment, warmth and a chance to grow. In fact, infants as young as 5 months have been able to survive premature births. The mother begins to feel fluttering kicks and movements from her little one now. There is evidence that the baby hears outside noise - music, traffic, TV, people talking and, of course, her favourite sound - her mother's voice



ABORTION IS NOT A SOLUTION

CLARE (not her real name), a young woman from Derry, had an abortion at 18 years of age. She spoke to the *Derry Journal* in 2004 about the after-effects of her abortion.

"When I was just 18 I became pregnant, but because I was so young and naïve I didn't realise it. One day I collapsed on the street and was taken to the hospital where a young house doctor there told me I was pregnant. I kept saying over and over again 'I don't want to be pregnant' to the doctor. He asked me if I wanted a termination and I didn't know what that was either. He told me that there was nothing there and that a termination would sort all my problems so I told him to 'go ahead'. I was taken to the theatre where instead of having my problems 'sorted' they were only just beginning. 35 years later I can still see the face of the anaesthetist who knocked me out before they did the abortion. I came out of that hospital a different person. I began neglecting my health, drank too much, was suicidal and had terrible nightmares where I would dream about a baby who was falling and I would be trying to catch her. I bought a doll that cried and carried it about with me everywhere and took it to bed with me at night. I was on a path to total self-destruction."



Clare is not alone. A study published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in 2006 found that 40% of those who had an abortion suffered serious depression within four years. Women deserve better than this. Isn't it about time we offered them positive, life-affirming alternatives to abortion?

A Young Life Is Gone

Mammy keep me safe, Mammy keep me warm,
And with all your love, help me to form.
I'm six weeks today and a birthday gift to me,
Is a pair of bright blue eyes so that one day I might see.
I've already got my arms, I have a pudgy little nose,
And at the end of my feet are funny little things called toes.

I'm looking forward now to life; ice-cream, snails,
Teddy bears and long fairy tales.
Where are you going I wonder today?
In a bus, in a car, far far away.
Why are you lying down being pushed on wheels?
This shouldn't happen - how funny it feels.

Banging through doors - all people in green,
If they hurt you Mammy; Mammy just scream.
Don't go asleep Mammy, don't leave me alone.
Mammy I'm scared, I want to go home.
Mammy what's happening, I'm starting to cry.
Run quick Mammy, I don't want to die.

They're killing me Mammy, they're pulling me apart.
My legs, my arms, they're cutting my heart.
Goodbye Mammy; Mammy, Mammy Goodbye.
Thanks for trying, but I won't see the sky.
I won't see the birds or the grass or the trees,
I won't sing sweet songs or feel a strange breeze.
I love you, dear Mammy, I really, really do
And I hope dear Mammy, that you loved me too.



THE LEGAL SITUATION

○ Is abortion legal in Ireland?

Abortions cannot currently be performed in this country. That's because the people voted in a referendum to make sure the Irish Constitution protected the right to life of unborn children. However, in the 1992 X case, the Irish Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution could be interpreted to allow for abortion. However, the Court then applied the relief of granting a right to travel to England for an abortion. Since then no laws have been brought forward to allow abortions to be performed in Ireland, mainly because the majority of Irish people remain firmly opposed to abortion. In 2010 a Millward Brown opinion poll showed that 70% of the people opposed legalising abortion in Ireland.

○ Have there been other abortion referendums since 1983?

Yes, one in 1992 and one in 2002. On both occasions the government sought to undermine the right to life of the unborn child and to introduce abortion in some circumstances. Each referendum was rejected by the people.

○ What legal threats do unborn babies face?

The unborn baby's life is at threat from abortion legislation which any government could decide to bring forward based on the X case. The EU is also putting pressure on Ireland to legalise abortion and the Sandbaek report (2003) criticised the Irish people for protecting the right to life of unborn children. The Irish Family Planning Association has also brought Ireland's pro-life laws before the European Court of Human Rights in an attempt to force abortion on Ireland.

○ How can the issue be resolved?

The issue of abortion can only be resolved by allowing the people to vote in a clear and unambiguous referendum which would give the voters the opportunity to accept or reject abortion. Government ministers, not pro-life people, have caused confusion by refusing to offer this opportunity to the Irish people. Pro-abortion campaigners, who are small in number but popular with the media, prefer abortion legislation to a referendum because they don't want the people to be consulted on this issue. **Put your politicians under pressure for a pro-life referendum NOW.**



ABORTION

Abortion is the deliberate killing of the child in the womb. Every abortion destroys a unique, precious human life. The evidence shows that it also harms women.

For everyone of us, life began at conception. From that moment, every baby is an individual, distinct from her parents. But 50 million babies are killed every year by the abortion industry. This is the reality of the grisly business of abortion.

KILLING METHODS

○ **Dilation and Curettage** - The mother's cervix is dilated and the living child is cut to pieces with a curette knife.

○ **Suction** - A hollow tube with a knife edged tip is inserted into the uterus. The suction from the aspirator tears the baby apart and sucks the pieces into a container. The head is crushed.

○ **Dilation and Evacuation** - Using a sharp-toothed pliers-like instrument the abortionist grasps a part of the baby's body and tears it away. This dismemberment of the living baby continues until all parts of the child are removed. Bleeding is usually profuse.

○ **Hysterotomy** - Somewhat like a caesarean section; the child is removed and left to die in a bucket. Usually performed after 24 weeks, children will move, breathe, and some will even cry.



Baby Choice - a little girl killed by abortion

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- When politicians come to your door, tell them you oppose abortion and want the law to reflect your opinion.
- Make sure they know they won't get your vote otherwise.
- Take more of these booklets and distribute them in your area.
- Vote for your local pro-life candidates at election time.

**Keep Ireland abortion-free.
Join Youth Defence and fight for
children's lives.**

Call us TODAY on 01 8730463.



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