

Best Ethical Practices

Student Pregnancy and Abortion Advice



ETHICAL/LEGAL CONCERNS

ASCA Ethical Codes and ACA Code of Ethics

Inform students of the limits to confidentiality, their rights as a student, and their parents' rights

Remember that our ethical duty is to the student and their safety

Involve the student in the decision-making process *before* you decide whether or not to disclose

Avoid imposing your own beliefs or attitudes about the situation

If you believe the student is at risk of serious and foreseeable harm, inform parents/guardians

California Law regarding adolescent pregnancy and health services

The California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Cal. Civil Code sections 56.10 and 56.11

The Patient Access to Health Records Act, Cal. Health and Safety Code sections 123110(a) and 123115(a)(1)

BEST COURSE OF ACTION

- Encourage the student to tell their parents about the pregnancy
 - Explain how their parents can be a source of support
 - Offer to role play with student (this may reduce fear/anxiety)
- Educate the student on all possible options (including abortion, adoption, and keeping the child)
 - Educate student on their legal rights
 - Provide information and resources on all options
- Reassure the student that you will continue to support them and act as a resource regardless of their decision

TEEN RESOURCES

[Teen Health Rights](#)

[Planned Parenthood](#)

[Pregnant on Campus](#)

[Love is RESPECT](#)

[National Runaway Safeline](#)

[California Public Housing](#)

