



**NARAL**

PRO-CHOICE MARYLAND FUND

# How to Spot a Crisis Pregnancy Center

## The Definition of CPCs

- ❖ Crisis pregnancy centers (also called fake clinics) pose as women's health centers and exist to dissuade people from getting abortion care.
- ❖ There is a national call to call these centers fake health clinics.

**Way #1: CPCs try to adopt "healthcare" language to name their centers.**

❖ Look out for phrases like *women's health center* or *pregnancy support center*.

❖ They also might add these religious phrases to their names: *Pro-Life, Choice, Care, Support Life, Choose Life* or *Life Affirming Decisions*.

**Way #2: They have deceptive fliers to confuse patients into thinking they are medical facilities.**

- ❖ **Their advertisements might say things like "Pregnant? Scared? Need help?"**
- ❖ **They might also advertise free pregnancy tests & products.**
- ❖ **These advertisements are often on huge billboards located in low income areas and near college campuses.**

**Way #3: They have deceptive websites that use biased language that aim to dissuade considering abortion as an option.**

**❖ From a 2018 investigative report on Maryland CPCs, here are some phrases found on their websites:**

**❖ "We do not offer, recommend or refer for abortions or abortifacients" (and they casted emergency contraception as an abortifacients)**

**❖ "We do not provide or promote abortion or contraception"**

## **Way #4: You don't book appointments at CPCs.**

- ❖ When you call them, they encourage you to visit the center immediately.**
- ❖ This is, in contrast, to booking an appointment with an actual clinic.**

## **Way #5: Their waiting rooms have biased material.**

- ❖ CPCs are reported to have informational pamphlets about the dangers of abortion in their waiting rooms.**
- ❖ Some also display baby dolls as fetal development models.**

## **Way #6: Services offered at CPCs are questionable.**

**❖ CPCs offer biased pregnancy, abortion, and contraceptive “counseling” rather than actual care.**

**❖ For example, CPCs trick you into thinking that the process of pregnancy testing is long, to allow them time to engage in biased “counseling”. Additionally, some CPCs offer ultrasound tests, requiring an additional appointment that is continually rescheduled.**

## SOURCES

❖ All information was taken from NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland reports and fact sheets & [exposecpcsct.org](http://exposecpcsct.org).