



HOW TO HELP A FRIEND *who has an* UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

RESPECT YOUR FRIEND'S DECISIONS

Every individual has the fundamental right to make choices about a pregnancy.

Anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy will need to make some of the most important decisions in their life. Your friend has the right to choose an option they feel is best for them at this time in their life. They may decide to carry the pregnancy to term, to keep the baby or place the child for adoption, or they may choose to have an abortion. As a friend, it is important that you respect your friend's decisions, regardless of your own personal values or beliefs. After your friend has made a choice, you can continue to be support in a way you feel the most comfortable with.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Remember, when it comes to your friend's health and well-being, they have the right to make choices based on their own medical, emotional, financial, ethical or other considerations. Here are some ways you can be supportive of your friend throughout this entire process:

- **LISTEN.** Let your friend talk; don't be judgmental, interrupt, or give advice. Just sitting and listening to your friend can reassure your friend that you care and are there for them.
- **OFFER TO HELP FIND APPROPRIATE RESOURCES FOR YOUR FRIEND.**
Ask your friend how you can help. For example, she may need help locating a safe supportive resources. Be clear about setting your limits about what you can and can't do. Setting limits to support your friend will empower both of you.
- **FIND SOME OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR YOURSELF WHILE YOU HELP YOUR FRIEND.**
Helping a friend in crisis can be difficult. It's possible for you to have strong emotional reactions to the situation too. The resources on the following page are good places to start for more information and help for your friend and yourself.

RESOURCES

- **Student Health Services** 752-2300 | healthcenter.ucdavis.edu
- **Counseling and Psychological Services** 752-0871 | caps.ucdavis.edu
- **Academic and Staff Assistance Program** 752-2727 | www.hr.ucdavis.edu/worklife-wellness/ASAP
- **The House Peer Counseling** 752-2790 | thehouse.ucdavis.edu
- **Women's Resources and Research Center** 752-3372 for referrals. | wrrc.ucdavis.edu
- **Women's Health Specialists** (916) 451-0621 | womenshealthspecialists.org
- **Backline** - pregnancy, parenting, abortion, adoption 1-888-493-0092 | yourbackline.org
- **Exhale** - after-abortion counseling hotline for you, your partner, family or friends 1-866-4-EXHALE
- **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center** 752-2452 | lgbtcenter.ucdavis.edu

BOOKS from the WOMEN'S RESOURCES AND RESEARCH CENTER LIBRARY

Bitter Fruit; Women's Experiences Of Unplanned Pregnancy, Abortion And Adoption

(Townsend, Rita; Perkins, Ann) 1992

Unplanned Choices: Pregnancy Resolution Decisions Among Chicana And Caucasian

U.C. Davis Students, Senior Thesis (Carlson, Christine N) 1999

The A word : real women, tough choices, personal freedom (Sorrentino, Mary Ann) 2006

The abortion myth: feminism, morality, and the hard choices women make (Cannold, Leslie)

Baby love: choosing motherhood after a lifetime of ambivalence (Walker, Rebecca) 2007

Before Their Time; Four Generations Of Teenage Mothers (Sander, Joelle) 1992

Birth By Design: Pregnancy, Maternity Care, And Midwifery In North America And Europe

Dubious conceptions: the politics of teenage pregnancy (Luker, Kristin) 1996

From here to maternity (Marshall, Connie C) 1994

Heart And Hands; A Midwife's Guide To Pregnancy And Birth (Davis, Elizabeth) 1987

Abortion And Woman's Choice; The State, Sexuality, And Reproductive Freedom (Petchesky,

Rosalind Pollack) 1985

If you'd like to read more about pregnancy, visit the WRRC Library, where these books, and others, are available. You can also browse the library catalog online at <http://wrrclibrary.ucdavis.edu>



Women's Resources & Research Center
North Hall, One Shields Ave. Davis, CA 95616
530.752.3372 | <http://wrrc.ucdavis.edu>