



Pregnant after rape or unwanted sex?

This pamphlet provides
information about support, your
options and your legal rights.

21 Belmore Terrace

Woodville Park SA 5011

Phone: (08) 8243 3999

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SA Country FREECALL 1800 672 966

www.pregnancyadvisorycentre.com.au



This pamphlet gives information about your legal rights, your options and support that you can access if you are pregnant after rape or unwanted sex.

If you have been raped, or forced into sex you did not want, you may be feeling a whole range of emotions. You may feel numb, anxiety, shame or confusion. All of these are common responses.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Discovering a pregnancy after rape, or a bad sexual experience, can make it difficult for you to make a decision about what to do next, including getting professional support or coping with an operation.

Yarrow Place gives free and confidential counselling and information to women who have been raped. You may also want to talk with friends or family members that you think can support you.

PREGNANCY CHOICES

If you are pregnant, you can:

- ◆ Continue with the pregnancy and parent.
- ◆ Continue with the pregnancy and adopt.
- ◆ Have an abortion.

You may already be clear about whether or not you want to go ahead with the pregnancy and feel comfortable with that decision. However, counselling is available at the Pregnancy Advisory Centre if you would like to discuss your thoughts and feelings in a safe, supportive environment where you will not be pressured about your decision. Other free services are listed on the back of this pamphlet.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Deciding what to do may be more difficult if you are not sure if the pregnancy is the result of rape, or consenting sex with your partner, or other person. Testing within the first 4 months of pregnancy (in utero paternity testing) can be done, if this would help you make a decision.

There is a cost involved, and both you and your sexual partner would need to participate in the testing. Contact the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS) on 1800 331139 and ask for Gene Match, or the Genetics Service at the Women's and Children's Hospital (W&CH) on 8161 7375 for further information and support.

LEGAL CHOICES

You have the right to take legal action in relation to rape. If you want to do this, or think you may want to in the future, there are important issues to consider now in relation to the pregnancy.

Forensic evidence (material from the pregnancy that can be used

to support your case) can be taken from tissue collected during an abortion if you decide to have an abortion, or after birth, if you decide to continue with the pregnancy. If you decide to have tissue collected at the time of an abortion, you can consent to:

- ◆ Having the material stored at Yarrow Place for six months, so that you have some time to make a decision about going ahead with legal action; or

- ◆ Having the tissue tested at the Forensic Science Centre. This would mean you are consenting to a police investigation of the rape and you would be required to make a statement about the assault. You may already have had an examination to collect evidence. Additional evidence from the pregnancy may help the police investigations.

You may be eligible for compensation under the Victims of Crime Act. This compensation is for injuries or conditions that are caused by rape. Pregnancy is classified as one of those conditions. For more information about eligibility and how to make a claim, contact either:

Yarrow Place

or

the Victim Support Service on 8231 5626.

If you decide to take legal action, getting information and ongoing support from Yarrow Place or a Women's Health Centre is strongly recommended.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

You may be experiencing a range of physical and emotional effects after sexual assault, or an unwanted sexual experience — regardless of the decision you make.

Also, the thought of a medical examination, anaesthetic or operation may be frightening or worrying.

If you decide to continue with the pregnancy, you may be anxious about how you will cope with the pregnancy and delivery and how you will relate to the baby. If this is the case, consider talking to a doctor, nurse or midwife about your concerns. You can discuss ways of increasing your sense of safety and talk about how you can work through any problems, should they arise.

If you decide to have an abortion, the Pregnancy Advisory Centre has staff who will support you and make your experience as safe and comfortable as possible. Female doctors are available on request.

You can also get support from the agencies listed on the back of this pamphlet.

The Pregnancy Advisory Centre and Yarrow Place are based on the understanding that:

Women have the right to make their own informed decisions about their bodies and their lives.

Rape and sexual assault are crimes that violate basic human rights.

Anyone regardless of age, sexuality, gender, culture, ability or religion can be sexually assaulted.

The person who is sexually assaulted is never to blame.

The perpetrator is totally responsible.

There is nothing that can excuse rape.

In this pamphlet the terms:

'rape',

'unwanted sex'

and 'sexual assault'

all refer to an experience of non-consenting sex.

WHERE TO GET ADVICE AND HELP

Pregnancy Advisory Centre
21 Belmore Tce. WOODVILLE PARK
Ph: 8243 3999
SA Country Free Call 1800 672 966
www.pregnancyadvisorycentre.com.au

Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service
Level 2, Norwich Centre
55 King William Rd
North Adelaide 5006
Phone: (08) 8226 8777
or
Toll Free in SA: 1800-817-421
After Hours and Emergency: (08) 8226 8787
www.yarrowplace.sa.gov.au

Sex Crimes Investigation Branch (SCIB) of South Australian Police
30 to 46 Wright St ADELAIDE
Ph: 8207 5800
OR
Your Local Police Station 131 444

Adoption and Family Information Service
45 Wakefield Street ADELAIDE
Ph: 8207 2656
www.adoptions.sa.gov.au

Association Representing Mothers Separated From Their Children
By Adoption
220 Victoria Square ADELAIDE
Ph: 8221 6944

SHine SA
51 Bower Street WOODVILLE
Ph: 8300 5300
(SHine SA has regional metropolitan branches.)
www.shinesa.org.au

Dale St. Women's Community Health Centre
47 Dale Street PORT ADELAIDE
Ph: 8444 0700

Northern Women's Community Health Centre
28 Phillip Hwy ELIZABETH
Ph: 8252 3711

Southern Women's Community Health Centre
Noarlunga Centre Alexander Kelly Drive NOARLUNGA
Ph: 8384 9555

Migrant Health Service
21 Market St ADELAIDE
Ph: 8200 3900

The Second Story Youth Health Service
57 Hyde St ADELAIDE
Ph: 8232 0233



For further information contact:

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Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

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