

Forced Abortion in America

A Special Report

64% INVOLVE COERCION, WHICH CAN BECOME SEVERE

Women pay a high price for a choice that's not a choice.

- When his wife refused to abort, her husband jumped on her stomach until their baby died . . .
- A daughter was pushed into an abortion clinic at gunpoint by her mother . . .
- Outside a parking garage, a physician shouted, "I'm giving you an abortion!" as he injected the mother of his child with an abortifacient drug . . .
- A school counselor ridiculed the student and put her on the weekly bus to the abortion clinic . . .
- A homeless woman was denied shelter until she had an abortion . . .
- A 13-year-old was returned to her molester after he took her in for a cover-up abortion . . .
- 3 sisters were raped repeatedly and forced into repeat cover-up abortions for nearly a decade . . .
- A waitress was fired after refusing to abort . . .

65% SUFFER TRAUMA. SUICIDE 7X HIGHER.

The pain didn't go away. It just waited.

- PART I – THE COERCED ABORTION EPIDEMIC
Not Informed, COUNSELED or Screened for Coercion.
- PART II – COERCION CAN LEAD TO VIOLENCE
Pregnancy Places Women at Higher Risk of Attack
- PART III – VIOLENCE CAN LEAD TO MURDER
Murder: The #1 Cause of Death for Pregnant Women
- A NIGHTMARE THAT WON'T END
"I screamed that I did not want the abortion."

Elliot
INSTITUTE

www.afterabortion.org

Forced Abortion — Part I

Most involve coercion, which can become violent.

The Un-Choice:

64% involve coercion.¹ Pressure can become violent.² 67% not counseled.¹ 65% suffer trauma.¹ Suicide 6 times higher.³

Forced Non-Choice ... “I’ll blow her brains out.”

Intense pressure to abort can come from husbands, parents, doctors, partners, counselors, or close friends and family. They may threaten or blackmail a woman into abortion. These are not idle threats. Coercion can escalate to violence. Women who resist abortion have been beaten, tortured and killed. One husband jumped on his wife’s stomach to force an abortion. A mother forced her daughter at gunpoint to go to the abortion clinic. A woman was forcibly injected by the baby’s father with an abortifacient drug.²

Unwanted Non-Choice ... Their Choice, Not Hers.

Reasons women give for having abortions:⁴

- Forced by mother
- Husband or boyfriend persuaded me
- Would have been kicked out
- Lack of support from society
- Father opposed
- No other option given
- Loss of family’s support
- Clinic persuaded me
- In 95% of all cases, the male partner played a central role in the decision.⁵
- 45% of men interviewed at abortion clinics recalled urging abortion, including 37% of married men.⁶
- In the above study, men justified being the primary decision maker, regarding the abortion.⁶
- 64% of women who aborted felt pressured by others.¹

Coerced Choice ... Taken to the Clinic to Make Sure She Keeps the Appointment

A former abortion clinic security guard testified before the Massachusetts legislature that women were routinely threatened and abused by the boyfriends or husbands who took them to the clinics to make sure they underwent their scheduled abortions.⁷ Many women are also pressured by clinic staff financially rewarded for selling abortions.⁸

Forced Choice ... Threats Can Escalate to Violence or Murder — the Leading Killer of Pregnant Women

The pressure can escalate. Many pregnant women have been killed by partners trying to prevent the birth, and being pregnant places women at higher risk of being attacked.⁹ Murder is the leading cause of death among pregnant women.¹⁰ 92% of women surveyed list domestic violence and assault as the women’s issue that is of highest concern to them.¹¹

Uninformed Non-Choice ... “When I learned the truth, I can’t tell you how betrayed I felt.”

- 54% were unsure of their decision, yet 67% received no counseling beforehand.¹
- 84% received inadequate counseling beforehand.¹ 79% were not told about alternatives.¹
- Many were misinformed by experts about fetal development, abortion alternatives or risks.¹²
- Many were denied essential personal, family, societal or economic support.¹²

Unsafe Choice ... American Voters Concerned About Coercion and Risks; Support Research and Screening.

Nearly half of voters believe coerced abortion is common. They’ll support candidates who advocate legislation holding abortionists liable for failing to screen for evidence of coercion.¹³ Nearly 80% of abortions take place in non-hospital facilities, ill-equipped for emergency care.¹⁴ Americans are kept in the dark about unwanted abortions, risks and risk factors.

The Aftermath. Women Pay a High Price.

Trauma.¹ Injury.¹ Grief. Death from All Causes.¹⁷ 6 Times Higher Suicide.³

- 31% had health complications afterwards.¹
- 65% higher risk of clinical depression.¹⁵
- 3.5x higher risk of death from all causes.¹⁷
- 65% suffer multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.¹
- 10% have immediate complications, some are life-threatening.¹⁶
- Suicide rates 6 times higher if women abort vs. giving birth.³

Young Women Forced to Abort

By Parents, Husbands, Molesters . . . Even Pastors and School Officials

- **Mother Charged with Forcing 15-Year-Old at Gunpoint into Clinic**

In Florida, Glenda Dowis was sentenced to two years community service after she pleaded guilty to forcing her daughter at gunpoint to go to an abortion clinic. According to a staff member, Dowis told clinic workers that if her daughter did not have an abortion, “I’m going to blow her brains out.” Clinic workers called police, but police said Dowis told staff to perform the abortion even though her daughter “may seem a bit teary.”

| She pleaded with her parents to let her have the baby.

- **Molester Buys Abortion—Twins Get Seven More Years of Rape**

In New Orleans, a 41-year-old man received two life sentences for raping his girlfriend’s twin daughters and using abortion to cover up his crimes. The victims testified that the assaults began when they were 10 and continued for seven years. One of the girls said she had two abortions after she became pregnant from the man when she was 15 and 17. She said the man paid for one abortion, unbeknownst to the mother. Her mother, who was told that the girl was raped by a date, paid for the second abortion.

- **Lawsuit: School Counselor Bypassed Parents, Law to Arrange Student’s Abortion**

Howard and Marie Carter accused Pennsylvania school guidance counselor William Hickey of coercing their 17-year-old daughter into undergoing an abortion, which was done out of state to avoid parental consent laws. The suit noted that when the teen expressed doubts, Hickey told her, “someday you’ll look back on this and laugh.”

- **13-Year-Old Returned to Molester After First Of Two Abortions**

In Arizona, a judge found Planned Parenthood negligent for failing to report an abortion performed on a 13-year-old girl who was sexually abused by her 23-year-old foster brother. Shawn Stephens took the girl to the clinic, but Planned Parenthood did not notify authorities until the girl returned six months later for a *second* abortion. A lawsuit alleged that the girl was subjected to repeated abuse and a second abortion because of the clinic’s failure to report suspected abuse. Stephens was sentenced to prison and lifetime probation.

| Counselor: “Someday you’ll look back on this and laugh.”

- **Judge Restrains Parents in Daughter’s Forced Abortion Case**

In Jackson, MS, a judge issued a temporary restraining order against the parents of a 16-year-old girl after they allegedly tried to force her into having an abortion. The girl said she pleaded with her parents to let her have the baby but they made an appointment for her at a local abortion clinic.

- **Mother Helps Son Use Abortion to Cover Up Statutory Rape of 12-Year-Old Girl**

Pennsylvania mother Joyce Farley began campaigning for a federal law to prevent anyone from taking a minor out of state for an abortion in order to circumvent parental consent laws—after her 12 year-old daughter was taken out of state for a secret abortion by Rosa Hartford, the mother of the 18-year-old who had impregnated her. Joyce learned of the abortion after her daughter began experiencing complications, including severe pain and bleeding. Hartford’s son was later convicted for interfering in the custody of a minor.

- **Abuser Poses as Father of 16-Year-Old Girl in Order to Obtain Abortion**

David A. Gillis, 36, was sentenced to 18 months to two years in prison for felony child abuse after he posed as the father of a 16-year-old girl whom he was sexually abusing and signed consent forms for an abortion at an Omaha abortion clinic. Gillis claimed he was remorseful about the situation, but prosecutors said he continued to write to the girl while in jail and filed frivolous protection orders against her parents.

- **Parents Use At Least 10 Abortions to Cover Up Repeated Sexual Abuse of Daughters**

The parents of three teenaged Baltimore girls pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree rape and child sexual abuse. The father had repeatedly raped the three girls over a period of at least nine years, and the rapes were covered up by at least ten abortions. At least five of the abortions were performed by the same abortionist at the same clinic.

- **Juvenile Prison Sued Over Sexual Abuse, Coerced Abortions of Young Girls**

Nine women who had been detained at a state detention facility for juvenile girls in Chalkville, Alabama, filed a lawsuit alleging that male guards at the facility watched them take showers, strip-searched them, pressured or forced them into having sex, beat them, and pressured those who became pregnant into having abortions. More than three dozen girls reportedly made similar allegations, and attorneys said they received additional complaints from women who had been held at Chalkville up to 20 years earlier.

| She told them to do the abortion even if her daughter was “a bit teary.”

- **Men Charged With Molesting Several Girls; One Victim Testifies She Underwent Abortion at 13**

Two Indiana men—Billy Banks, Sr., 67, and his son, Jimmy Lou Banks, 40—were arrested and charged with sexually molesting several young girls. A woman told police that Billy Banks began molesting her in 1965 when she was 5 years old, and that she had an abortion at 13 after she became pregnant by him.

- **Woman: Abuser Punched Her in Stomach After Forced Abortion Doesn't Work; Causes Miscarriage**

Augencia Jasso of New Mexico was charged with physically and sexually abusing a young girl over a number of years, beginning when she was seven and living in Mexico. The woman told police that the abuse continued when she moved to New Mexico and that Jasso repeatedly threatened to kill her and her family if she told anyone. She also said that when she became pregnant, Jasso took her to a Planned Parenthood office for an abortion, but after finding that the office was closed, he punched her in the stomach, causing her to miscarry.

- **Man Sentenced to Prison for Ten Years of Sexual Abuse; Victim Had Abortion Out of Fear**

Michael Paul Weber of Philadelphia was sentenced to 20-40 years for raping and physically abusing a young girl in his care over a period of ten years, beginning when she was 8 years old. The girl said that when she became pregnant, she had an abortion out of fear of being further abused by Weber.

Women Blackmailed into Abortion

Homelessness, Humiliation, Solitary Confinement or a Push Downstairs

- **Actress Fired For Being Pregnant; TV Producer Wonders Why She Didn't “Just Abort”**

An actress won a pregnancy discrimination suit against the producers of the Fox TV show *Melrose Place* after she was fired from the cast because she was pregnant. Her lawsuit alleged that one of the show's producers remarked, “Why doesn't she just go out and get an abortion? Then she can work.”

- **Basketball Coach Accuses School of Firing Her for Refusing to Have an Abortion**

An assistant women's basketball coach won a settlement against the University of California at Berkeley, accusing the head coach of firing her after she refused to quit or to have an abortion. She later gave birth to a son. She sued for sexual discrimination and breach of contract for being forced to choose “between her child and a paycheck.”

- **Homeless Woman Reports Being Denied Shelter Until She Submits to Abortion**

A woman won a \$25,000 settlement from Emergency Shelters, Inc., of Richmond, VA, after she filed a lawsuit charging staff members with coercing her to get an abortion by telling her that the shelter did not provide services

for pregnant homeless women. She stated that a staff member drove her to the bank to withdraw money for the abortion, then took her to the abortion clinic.

- **Woman Wins Settlement After Accusing Boss of Coerced Abortion and Threats**

A Minnesota woman won an out-of-court settlement for an undisclosed amount from her employer, Duluth Little Stores, after her boss tried to pressure her to abort. The woman said her boss mistreated her while she was pregnant and threatened to push her down the stairs during her sixth month of pregnancy.

“Why doesn’t she just get an abortion? Then she can work.”

- **Woman Sues Prison After Forced Abortifacient Drug Kills Her Child**

An inmate imprisoned on a bank fraud conviction in Hawaii sued the Oahu Correctional Center for forcibly aborting her child. According to the lawsuit, when the woman arrived at the center she was injected with a birth control drug in her abdomen, even though she told the nurse she was pregnant. The woman said she was told she would be put in solitary confinement and labeled a troublemaker if the intake process did not go smoothly.

- **Medic Says She Aborted After Boss Threatened to Fire Her**

Three paramedics accused Washington, D.C. Assistant Emergency Medical Services Chief Samantha Robinson of pressuring them into having abortions by telling them they could be fired if they became pregnant their first year on the job. One woman told authorities she aborted despite her beliefs because she was afraid of losing her job. She said Robinson told her “she had a choice to make.” Robinson later resigned from her job.

- **Law School Grad Uses Sex Videotape in Attempt to Blackmail Girlfriend into Abortion**

Nicholas Griffin, a Florida law school graduate, was sentenced for trying to force his ex-girlfriend to have an abortion. He hired friends to blackmail his girlfriend by threatening to mail copies of a videotape the couple had made of themselves having sex to the woman’s family, friends, and employer unless she had the abortion. The woman later gave birth to a girl.

Boss: “You have a choice to make.”

- **Elite Model Agency Founder Accused of Sexually Abusing a Minor and Arranging Her Abortion**

John Casablancas, founder of Los Angeles’ prestigious Elite modeling agency, was named in a sex abuse lawsuit. An aspiring model said he began sexually abusing her when she was 15 and arranged for her to have an abortion when she became pregnant.

- **Restaurant Sued for Terminating Employee Who Became Pregnant**

A restaurant employee in Long Island filed a lawsuit against her employer alleging that she was terminated when she became pregnant. The woman said she was told to “consider her options” when she told a supervisor she was pregnant. She later gave birth to a girl.

- **Woman Files Pregnancy Discrimination Lawsuit Against Maternity Clothing Retailer**

Mother’s Work, a maternity clothing retailer, was the subject of a pregnancy discrimination lawsuit charging that they fired employees after they became pregnant. One woman, a former district manager, accused the vice-president of firing her during her 37th week of pregnancy after telling her she wouldn’t be able to handle her job.

- **Funeral Home Employee Wins Lawsuit Over Coerced Abortion**

A funeral home employee in Florida filed a lawsuit against Fisher-Pou Funeral Home, saying that her supervisor badgered her into an abortion because her baby was biracial. The woman and three other former employees

accused Deborah Flannagan of pressuring the woman to abort, making financial arrangements and taking her for the abortion. The woman said she was later fired from her job for interracial dating.

For More Examples

These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. For more information and examples of coerced abortion and pregnancy- and abortion-related violence, visit:

abortionviolence.com
sba-list.org
theunchoice.com

Forced Abortion — Part II

Coercion Can Lead to Violence

Coercion Can Escalate to Violence if Women Won't Abort

Pregnancy Places Women at Higher Risk of Attack⁹

64% of abortions involve coercion,¹ and this sometimes includes threats of physical abuse from partners—or even parents—who don't want the child. Girls have been physically pushed into clinics and restrained when they tried to escape their abortion.⁷ Women have endured violently forced miscarriages, which sometimes result in murder—the leading killer of pregnant women.¹⁰ Other women resort to abortion because they believe it is the only way to stop the abuse.

Men have forcibly performed abortions by switchblade, gunshot, and other violent methods

Coercion often involves direct or indirect threats of physical violence. Women who refuse to abort have been subjected to every manner of abuse, from forced injections to stabbings, beatings, bombings, gunshots, and strangulation.

According to one study of battered women, the target of battery during their pregnancies shifted to their pregnant abdomens.¹⁸ Indeed, the leading cause of death among pregnant women is murder.¹⁰ In many cases, it is known that these women were killed solely because their killers wanted to stop them from giving birth to their children.¹⁹

In a recent poll, 92% of women cited preventing domestic violence as their highest priority.¹¹

NOTE: Some of the cases below contain graphic descriptions of violence.

Women Who Choose Life Subjected to Violent Forced Abortions

- **Doctor Stabs Girlfriend with Syringe Outside Parking Garage to Force Abortion**

New York physician Stephen Pack was sentenced to prison after repeatedly stabbing his girlfriend with a syringe filled with an abortion-inducing drug. A witness said that Pack shouted, “I’m giving you an abortion!” as he forced the woman to the ground near a hospital parking garage. She later gave birth to a healthy boy.

- **Three Hit Men Hired to Kill Unborn Baby After Woman Refuses Abortion**

A pregnant Arkansas woman was within days of her due date when she was beaten and kicked in the abdomen by three men, killing her unborn baby girl. She said she pleaded for her child’s life as her attackers told her: The woman’s boyfriend, Eric Bullock, was convicted of planning the attack.

- **Man Beats Girlfriend For Refusing to Go into Abortion Clinic**

Andrew Jerome Gaither pleaded guilty to two counts of simple assault for beating up his girlfriend outside an abortion clinic in Washington, DC. Witnesses said that Gaither beat the woman after she refused to enter the clinic after speaking with pro-life advocates outside. She later gave birth to a healthy baby.

- **Man Charged with Assaulting Wife Who Says She Had Refused Abortion—Unborn Child Dies**

In New Jersey, Drew Stauffenberg was charged with aggravated assault for allegedly attacking his wife. His wife said he squeezed and punched her abdomen and forced her out of the house. She also said that Stauffenberg had “expressed a wish for her to have an abortion” after he found out she was pregnant. Doctors determined that the 10-week-old unborn baby died as a result of injuries to the amniotic sac and uterus.

- **Boyfriend Breaks Into Home, Assaults Girlfriend Who Had Refused Abortion**

Jeremy Powell pleaded guilty to forcing his way into his girlfriend’s New York house and beating, kicking, and

punching her after she refused to have an abortion. The victim, who was three months pregnant, told police Powell said to her, “I’m going to beat that baby out of you.”

- **Pregnant Girlfriend Tied to Chair During Gas Explosion; Boyfriend Charged with Attempted Murder**

In Buffalo, NY, David Elersic was charged with the attempted murder of his pregnant girlfriend. Police said he tied her to a chair and disconnected the gas stove pipe in an apparent murder-suicide attempt after she told him she was pregnant and intended to keep the baby. The woman and her unborn baby survived the explosion, although she suffered severe burns.

- **Boyfriend Charged in Stabbing Pregnant Woman Who Says He Demanded an Abortion**

In Nevada, Jesus Villagomez was charged with manslaughter for repeatedly stabbing his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen, killing her 18-week-old unborn baby. The woman told police he had demanded she have an abortion. Villagomez was sentenced to 18 years in prison for causing the unborn child’s death, and ordered to pay the woman’s medical bills.

“Your child is dying tonight.”

- **Connecticut Man Demands Abortion, Rapes Girlfriend, Forces Abortifacient Drug**

Edward Sandoval was convicted of seven felony charges in Connecticut for raping his pregnant girlfriend and trying to abort her baby by forcing her to take misopristol, a labor-inducing drug. The woman told police that he had demanded she have an abortion.

- **Pregnant Woman Blindfolded, Tied Up, and Injected in Forced Abortion**

Mark Redeker, a second-year ob/gyn resident in New York, was charged with assault and unauthorized practice of medicine for blindfolding his girlfriend, tying her up, and injecting her with a drug that left her unconscious and bleeding. She later suffered a miscarriage.

- **Man Hired to Forcibly Induce Miscarriage**

In Oklahoma, Andre Singleton told police that Shawn Lawrence hired him and another person to assault Lawrence’s pregnant girlfriend and cause her to miscarry. The woman was pistol-whipped and repeatedly kicked in the stomach.

- **Police Charge New Yorker for Beating, Raping, Attempting Forced Abortion on Girlfriend**

David Lyons was charged with sexual abuse, rape, stalking, and attempted abortion after police said he beat and sexually assaulted his pregnant girlfriend in an attempt to force an abortion.

- **Man Poisons Girlfriend’s Drink to Induce Miscarriage**

In Missouri, Michael T. Bullock was convicted after he put poison in his girlfriend’s drink in an attempt to induce a miscarriage. Police said he had told friends he poisoned his girlfriend because he didn’t want the baby. His 19-year-old girlfriend later delivered a healthy baby.

He poisoned his girlfriend because he didn’t want the baby.

- **Man Arrested for Stabbing Pregnant Girlfriend, Killing Unborn Child**

In South Dakota, a man was arrested for stabbing his girlfriend in the abdomen, resulting in the death of her unborn child. Sundance Medicinehorn Keeble faced assault and fetal homicide charges. His girlfriend, who survived the attack, was 4 to 5 months pregnant. The prosecutor said that Keeble “intentionally stabbed the woman in the stomach, causing the death of the unborn child.”

- **Woman Testifies That Husband Beat Her with Log for Refusing Abortion; Newborn Dies**

A Missouri woman testified that her husband beat her with a log after she refused to have an abortion. Jason Hawkins was charged with second-degree murder after their son was born three months premature and died.

- **Man Charged with Beating Nine-Months-Pregnant Girlfriend Until Twins Were Stillborn**

In Norwood, NY, Anthony Puglia was charged with assault and forced abortion after he allegedly beat his pregnant girlfriend. Police said he kicked and punched her in the abdomen. Her nine-month-old unborn twins were stillborn.

- **Man Laces Girlfriend's Drink with Drug Used to Induce Labor in Farm Animals**

In New York, Danny Court was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to lacing his pregnant girlfriend's drink with a drug used to induce labor in farm animals. His 19-year-old girlfriend and her baby survived.

“I'm giving you an abortion!”

- **Man Charged with Kidnapping; Woman Says He Told Her He Was Taking Her for Abortion**

Usbaldo Palomino of Nevada was charged with kidnapping, domestic battery, aggravated stalking, and leaving the scene of an accident in an incident involving a woman who was eight months pregnant. The woman said he punched her in the face and forced her into the truck, which he then crashed into a house as he was leaving the area, causing her to be knocked unconscious after her head struck the dashboard. She also told police that Palomino struck her and that he told her he was taking her to Reno for an abortion.

- **Woman Refuses Abortion; Baby's Father Kicks Her in Stomach in Attempt to Cause Miscarriage**

In Michigan, Justin Siekierk was charged with assaulting a pregnant woman and intending to cause a miscarriage or stillbirth. The woman testified that she and a friend went to Siekierk's apartment to talk about the baby, but after she refused to have an abortion, Siekierk threw her into some bushes and began punching her and kicking her in the abdomen with steel-toed boots.

- **Boyfriend Charged After Shooting Pregnant Woman; Unborn Child Killed**

In Indiana, 25-year-old Mark Joseph Griffin was charged with first degree feticide and three counts of attempted first degree murder for allegedly shooting his ex-girlfriend, killing her eight-month-old unborn baby. Police said Griffin shot her because he believed she was pregnant with another man's baby.

“I'm going to beat that baby out of you.”

- **Man Arrested Twice for Assault, Attempted Murder of Pregnant Woman**

In St. Louis, George Villarreal III was sentenced to five years in prison for assaulting his pregnant girlfriend and causing the death of his unborn twin daughters. He was released from prison after two years, but was arrested again for attempting to murder the same woman, who had married him and was five to six months pregnant at the time of the murder attempt.

- **Abortionist Charged with Raping and Forcing Abortion on His Wife**

Dr. Theodore Lehrer, a Florida abortionist, had his medical license suspended after he was charged with performing an abortion on his wife against her will. Lehrer was arrested after his wife told police that he handcuffed and gagged her, raped her, and then forcibly aborted her 11-week-old baby in the bathroom of their home. However, charges were dropped against Lehrer after his wife, who was suffering from illness, refused to testify against him, saying she was too sick to do so.

- **Man Charged With Assaulting Pregnant Girlfriend Told Police She Was Trying to Kill Herself**

Albert J. Danos of Louisiana was charged with assaulting his pregnant girlfriend, then telling police she tried to commit suicide. Danos' girlfriend, who suffered multiple injuries, told police that he pushed her, knocked her to the floor, punched her, kicked her in the side and stomach, and tried to shoot her, telling her that her baby did not deserve to live.

- **Man Charged with Tearing Unborn Child from Wife's Womb**

Robert Hollis of Kentucky was charged with chasing his wife into a barn, shoving his hand into her womb, and tearing her seven-month old unborn child from the wall of the uterus. The 2-pound baby was delivered dead later that day.

- **Woman Beaten, Punched in Abdomen by Husband Days Before Delivery Date**

A Milwaukee woman was days away from her delivery date when her estranged husband beat her, grabbed her by her hair, and punched her in the abdomen. Her unborn son died of bleeding caused by blunt force trauma. Glendale Black was convicted of first degree assault and false imprisonment, but Wisconsin did not at that time allow prosecution for the death of the unborn child. The woman later testified before Congress that Black said in an interview that if the state had a law protecting unborn children, he would not have attacked her child.

- **Police: Woman Tried to Hire Hit Man to Kill Rival's Baby**

Melinda Ann Elem was indicted for attempting to hire a hit man to kill a woman who was seven months pregnant. Police said that Elem wanted the woman's baby killed because she believed the woman was pregnant by Elem's husband, and she did not care if the mother lived or died in the process.

“Your baby doesn't deserve to live.”

- **Man Charged with Repeatedly Punching Pregnant Girlfriend in the Abdomen After She Refuses to Abort**

In Massachusetts, Richard Andrade was charged with repeatedly punching his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen after she refused to abort. Andrade was charged with felony assault.

- **Pennsylvania Man Imprisoned for Punching Pregnant Girlfriend in Stomach**

A Pennsylvania woman's boyfriend punched her in the stomach when she was three months pregnant. Ronald Loughney pleaded guilty to assault after prosecutors dropped charges for aggravated assault against the unborn child, who survived.

- **Pregnant Woman Miscarries After Being Punched and Kicked by Boyfriend**

Clayton R. Tucker of Malone, NY, pleaded guilty to second-degree abortion and was sentenced to two to four years in a state prison for repeatedly punching and kicking his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen. His girlfriend suffered a miscarriage the next day. Prosecutors said Tucker shouted that he wanted to kill the baby.

- **New York Man Arrested for Stabbing of Pregnant Woman**

Sean Brown of Albany was convicted for repeatedly stabbing his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen in what prosecutors said was an attempt to make her lose the pregnancy. Brown was sentenced to 11 years in prison for assault and up to three more years for attempting to kill the unborn child. His girlfriend and the baby both survived.

She was beaten in the abdomen with a baseball bat.

- **Caught on Tape: Doctor Tries to Abort Ex-Girlfriend's Baby with Abortifacient Drug**

Ohio police videotaped Dr. Maynard Muntzing slipping an abortifacient drug into his ex-girlfriend's drink. The woman went to the police after she became ill several times after visiting Muntzing. She later miscarried. Muntzing received five years in prison for attempted abortion, and his wife, Tammy, who purchased the drug, was also convicted.

- **Hit Man Shoots Pregnant Woman; Mother and Wounded Baby Survive**

A Chicago woman was 30 weeks pregnant when she was shot repeatedly by a masked gunman as she was walking home with children from a nearby elementary school. Her 3-pound, 4-ounce baby daughter was delivered by Caesarean section and survived despite having been wounded in the attack. Doctors said the baby helped save her mother's life by shielding the woman's vital organs. Jimmy Spencer, 32, faced murder charges. Police said that Spencer, who was not the baby's father, had been hired to carry out the shooting.

- **Attorney Tries to Hire Hit Man to Kill Girlfriend's Unborn Twins**

Florida attorney David Luskin was convicted for attempting to hire a hit man to beat his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach with a baseball bat after she refused to have an abortion. The woman, who was pregnant with twins, asked for leniency in

Luskin's sentencing, but said later that she did so before she heard a tape of Luskin asking a prostitute how he could hire someone to kill his girlfriend.

- **Man Charged with Beating Pregnant Girlfriend Because She Wouldn't Abort**

Authorities in Fayette, GA, charged Michael Antonio Glass with fetal homicide after he allegedly beat his pregnant girlfriend, causing the deaths of her four-month-old unborn twins. Police said that Glass had been angry at his girlfriend because she refused to have an abortion.

- **Man Charged in Beating of Woman and Death of Unborn Child**

In St. Louis, Lawrence Green, 26, was charged with beating a pregnant woman, causing her to go into premature labor. The baby lived just eight minutes outside the womb. Green faced charges of involuntary manslaughter after the medical examiner ruled the baby's death a homicide.

- **Pregnant Woman Loses Six-Month-Old Unborn Baby After Assault; Boyfriend Charged**

A Troy, NY woman lost her six-month-old unborn child after being beaten, allegedly by her boyfriend. Darren Jones was charged with assault and reckless endangerment, but no murder charges were filed because prosecutors said they could not prove the baby died as a result of the attack.

| The doctor drugged three women and forcibly aborted them.

- **Man Could Face Up to 65 Years for Charge of Kidnaping, Assaulting Pregnant Girlfriend**

Wisconsin police arrested Jake Perry after his pregnant girlfriend told them that he held her against her will for four hours at her sister's home, where he slapped her, threw her into a box of plates, and jabbed her in the stomach, head, arms, and legs. The woman, who was two months pregnant, later suffered a miscarriage.

- **Abortionist Convicted of Forcibly Aborting Women He Impregnated**

Indianapolis abortionist Pravin Thakkar was convicted in three cases in which he seduced and impregnated women and then performed abortions on them without their consent. One woman testified that Thakkar drugged her and aborted her eight-month-old baby at his home. She said she awoke briefly to hear a baby crying, but Thakkar told her the baby was stillborn. The child's body was never found. Thakkar was also convicted of tax evasion and numerous counts of improper sexual behavior towards his patients—including raping one of his former patients in her home. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

- **Man Rapes and Tortures Pregnant Girlfriend, Her Baby Dies**

David A. Enis of Milwaukee was convicted of beating, raping, and torturing his pregnant girlfriend and holding her captive in his home for two days. His girlfriend, who was eight-and-a-half months pregnant, was tied to a bed, bitten, burned with cigarettes, and beaten with an electrical cord. She delivered a stillborn baby after Thompson finally summoned an ambulance for her. Thompson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

- **Man Charged With Beating Daughter Who Refused Abortion**

An Ohio man admitted to police that he beat his 16-year-old daughter for refusing to have an abortion. Moses Cade faces charges of domestic violence and endangering children. Cade allegedly told police that he planned to keep the girl locked in the house until he could take her for an abortion and that he beat her a metal broomstick when she refused. The girl told police her father also punched her in the face and stomach.

- **Man Goes Missing After Being Charged in Shooting of Pregnant Girlfriend**

A Lansing, Michigan man fled from police after prosecutors authorized charges against him for allegedly pistol-whipping his pregnant girlfriend and shooting her in the abdomen, missing her 5-month-old unborn child by inches. The mother was hospitalized and placed under police protection after her boyfriend disappeared. Prosecutors said he could face up to

life in prison if convicted.

- **Father Stages Carjacking, Has Mother and Unborn Child Shot**

In Ohio, Paul Nino Tarver II was convicted of arranging to have his pregnant girlfriend shot during a staged carjacking so he wouldn't have to be a father to her child. The woman survived the shooting, but her 3-month-old unborn baby died.

For More Examples

These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. Refer to these web sites for current news, information and more examples of coerced abortion and pregnancy- and abortion-related violence:

abortionviolence.com
sba-list.org
theunchoice.com

Forced Abortion — Part III

Violence Can Lead to Murder

Violence Can Escalate to Murder if Women Don't Abort

- Murder is the leading cause of death among pregnant women.¹⁰
- It is not unusual for a pregnancy to be wanted by the woman but unwanted by the man.
- He may not want the long-term costs of supporting a child, the loss of his “freedom” or being tied down with parental responsibilities, or a birth that might expose an affair, a rape, or the sexual abuse of a minor. Whatever the reason, some men will become increasingly pressuring, abusive, and violent until they get their way: a dead baby, even if it also requires killing the mother.
- If so, the woman can feel tremendous, often life-threatening, pressure to abort.

Life-Threatening Pressure to Abort

- Pregnancy places women at higher risk of being attacked.⁹
- Women understand that threats of violence are real. Preventing domestic violence is their top concern.¹¹
- According to one study of battered women, the target of battery during pregnancy shifted to their abdomens.¹⁸ The leading cause of death among pregnant women is homicide¹⁰ and in many cases it is known that the violence happened solely to prevent birth.¹⁹

NOTE: Some of the cases below contain graphic descriptions of violence.

Teens Who Refuse to Abort Have Been Murdered

- **Man Stabs 15-Year-Old Girl Who Refused Abortion, Frozen Body Found at Rest Stop**
Kevin Robinson, 38, was sentenced to life in prison for killing a pregnant 15-year-old girl. She was stabbed multiple times and her frozen body was later discovered at a Wyoming rest stop. Prosecutors said that Robinson had gotten the teen pregnant and that he killed her for refusing to abort.
- **Man Charged with Shooting Teen in Head After She Refuses Abortion**
A pregnant 17-year-old was shot in the head in her apartment in Greensboro, NC. Her boyfriend, 21-year-old Shawn Kristopher Holliman, was sentenced to life without parole for her murder. Police said he killed the teen because she refused to have an abortion and he didn't want to pay child support.
- **Teen Charged with Shooting Pregnant Girlfriend; Sister Finds Her Half-Conscious on Park Bench**
In New York, an 18-year-old girl was shot in the head just two weeks before she was due to deliver her baby, allegedly by her boyfriend, 19-year-old Warren Teasley. The girl's sister found her slumped on a park bench, bleeding and half-conscious. The teen and her unborn daughter died at the hospital.
- **15-Year-Old Pregnant Girl Jammed with Sticks, Beaten, Crushed with 30 Lb. Boulder**
In Colorado, 21-year-old Michael Baldwin confessed to luring his pregnant teenage girlfriend to a secluded area and killing her by assaulting her with sticks and a boulder. Police said Baldwin jammed a branch down his girlfriend's throat and jammed sticks into her other body cavities, then beat her and crushed her skull with a 30-pound boulder. She was 15 weeks pregnant. Baldwin pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison under a plea bargain that allowed him to avoid the death penalty.

- **Boyfriend Bludgeons Pregnant Girlfriend in Premeditated Murder**

Two teenage boys were convicted of planning and carrying out the murder of a pregnant 15-year-old girl, the girlfriend of one of them. The girl, who was 12 weeks pregnant, left a note for her parents and climbed out her bedroom window to meet Matthew Ryan Elliot for what she believed was a trip to an abortion clinic. Elliot confessed that he instead drove her to a deserted area and bludgeoned her to death with a metal pipe. He was sentenced to life in prison. Another teenage boy was convicted of helping to plan the murder, including digging a grave and buying plastic sheeting to wrap the teen's body.

- **16-Year-Old Girl Killed Because Boyfriend Thought She Was Pregnant and Didn't Want Baby**

In Georgia, Matthew Wiedeman and another teen stabbed and beat Wiedeman's girlfriend to death. Police said Wiedeman, who pleaded guilty, believed his girlfriend was pregnant and he didn't want her to have the baby. An autopsy showed she was not pregnant.

| The victim had finished fourth grade the day before she was murdered.

- **Pregnant 4th Grader Killed by Her Molester**

In Texas, a 10-year-old girl who had just finished fourth grade was killed, allegedly by a man who had been molesting her. Police said Edward LaGrone entered the home of the girl's family and shot and killed her and two other women there. The girl was 17 weeks pregnant and her mother had notified police that LaGrone had assaulted her. Police said LaGrone had offered to pay an abortion and he wanted to stop the family from filing charges against him. He was sentenced to death for the murders.

- **Pregnant 15-Year-Old Rape Victim Killed and Burned**

Shannon Meschack of Dallas, TX, was arrested for killing a pregnant 15-year-old girl and attempting to burn her body. The girl's family said Meschack, who was more than 10 years older than the teen, didn't want her to have the baby. Meschack was not charged for the baby's death because the state's unborn victims law was not yet in effect.

- **Pregnant 15-Year-Old Shot to Death on School Bus—Boyfriend Charged**

In Missouri, a pregnant 15-year-old girl was shot to death on a school bus. Police said 29-year-old Mark Boyd hired Malic J. Nettles, 20, to kill her because Boyd already had two children and didn't want a third. Nettles allegedly boarded the school bus and opened fire, killing the teen and wounding the bus driver. Boyd was charged with murder for the deaths of the teen and her unborn baby.

- **16-Year-Old Taken to Deserted Field, Shot in Head, Left in Ditch—Boyfriend Charged**

Trevor Wayne Benson and Kelly D. McCarney of Oklahoma were charged in the murder of Benson's 16-year-old girlfriend, who was seven months pregnant. Police said that the two men took the teen, who had asked Benson to take a paternity test, to a deserted field and shot her in the head, leaving her body in a ditch. Benson and McCarney could be charged with murder for the unborn child's death under Oklahoma law.

- **Pregnant 14-Year-Old Stabbed in Abdomen, Neck, and Back; Believed to be Buried Alive**

In Boston, 21-year-old Kyle Bryant and 24-year-old Lord Hampton were charged with the murder of a 14-year-old girl who was seven months pregnant with Bryant's baby. Police said the two blindfolded the girl, struck her over the head and stabbed her repeatedly in the neck, abdomen, and back. She was then buried in a shallow grave, probably while she was still alive. The two men were charged with double homicide.

- **Pregnant Woman Hit Over Head with Skillet, Shot in Head**

A California man became the first person sentenced to death under California's fetal homicide law for arranging the death of his pregnant wife. Earlin Popham testified that Jerry Bunyard offered him \$1,000 to kill Bunyard's wife, who was a week away from the due date of her unborn baby girl. Popham testified that he broke an iron skillet on the woman's skull and then shot her in the head. Popham received 25 years to life in exchange for his testimony against Bunyard.

- **Pregnant Teen Shot in Kentucky, Body Found in Park**

In Kentucky, a pregnant 18-year-old girl was shot and her body found in a car at a park. The girl's family said that only hours before her death, they had watched an ultrasound video of her 22-week-old unborn baby. The teen's ex-boyfriend, Roger McBeath, was charged in her death.

- **Teen Strangled, Stoned, and Stabbed by Boyfriend Who Had Threatened to Kill Her if She Didn't Abort**

Sean Steele confessed to murdering his pregnant 15-year-old girlfriend by strangling her, dropping a rock on her body, and stabbing her with a broken beer bottle. Family and friends testified that Steele had threatened to kill the teen and her baby if she didn't abort.

- **Woman Refuses Abortion, Man Fulfills Threat and Kills Her with Pipe Bomb**

A pregnant Pittsburgh woman and her 7-year-old daughter were killed by a pipe bomb in their home on New Year's Day. The woman's ex-boyfriend, Joseph Miner, was sentenced to life in prison. Police said Miner had threatened to kill her when she refused to have an abortion.

- **Oklahoma City Woman Beaten and Shot After Refusing Abortion**

The body of a pregnant 21-year-old woman was found in a shallow grave in Oklahoma City. Twenty-one weeks pregnant, she had been shot twice and beaten. Police said Nathaniel Smith murdered her because she refused to abort and he didn't want to pay child support.

| The teen was probably still alive when she was buried.

- **Pregnant Woman's Body Found in Car Trunk, Husband Convicted**

The body of a Florida woman who was four months pregnant was found in the trunk of a car in a strip-club parking lot. Her husband, Joseph Peck, was convicted of killing her with a blow to the head, allegedly because she refused to have an abortion. According to court records, the woman told a counselor shortly before her death that Joseph was abusing her.

- **Woman Killed After Refusing Abortion, Her Body Burned**

Alfred E. Smith was sentenced to life in prison for killing his pregnant ex-girlfriend, then putting her body in her car and setting the car on fire. Prosecutors in Van Nuys, Louisiana said Smith killed the woman for refusing to abort because of her religious beliefs.

- **Boyfriend Shoots Pregnant Woman in Abdomen; Kills Her and Unborn Son**

In Toledo, Ohio, Terrance Davis was sentenced to life in prison for shooting his pregnant girlfriend in the abdomen, killing her and her unborn son. A witness testified that Davis had threatened to kill her's unborn child, and the woman's mother said Davis asked her to talk her daughter into having an abortion.

- **Pregnant Woman Hanged by Man Who Believed He Fathered Her Child**

In Houston, Dan Leach confessed that he murdered a woman whose death had been ruled a suicide. Leach reported that he had killed her because he thought he was the father of her baby. He faces up to life in prison if convicted.

- **Virginia Man Detonates Bomb to Kill Pregnant Girlfriend and Unborn Child**

Coleman Johnson, Jr., was sentenced to life in prison for killing his pregnant ex-girlfriend. She and her eight-month-old unborn child were killed by a bomb that was placed on her apartment steps and detonated by a model rocket engine.

- **NFL Star Arranged Girlfriend's Death to Avoid Child Support**

Rae Carruth, a former NFL player, was convicted for plotting the death of his pregnant girlfriend in a drive-by shooting. The 24-year-old woman was shot four times in the abdomen and died a month later. Prosecutors said Carruth, who was sentenced to 18 years in prison, wanted the woman killed so he wouldn't have to pay child support. The baby boy survived.

- **Pregnant Woman Dies from Gunshot to Head, Newborn Son Dies Two Weeks Later**

A pregnant Colorado woman died two days after her boyfriend, Daniel Self, shot her in the head. Doctors were able to deliver her unborn son, who died two weeks later. Self was charged in his girlfriend's death, but not that of her son, even though experts testified that the baby's fatal complications were a direct result of the shooting.

- **Missouri Man Stabs Woman to Death the Day Before Her Delivery Date**

Steven McBride was sentenced to two life terms for stabbing a pregnant 21-year-old to death just a day before she was due to deliver. The woman's unborn baby girl died of blood loss.

| Her boyfriend said the baby would ruin his life.

- **Utah Man Stabs Pregnant Girlfriend to Death**

Calvin Shane Meyers of Utah was convicted of two counts of capital murder for killing his pregnant girlfriend. The woman, who was 16 to 18 weeks pregnant, was stabbed to death and her body left near Utah's Rockport Reservoir, where it was discovered by a snowmobiler 16 days later.

- **Pregnant Woman Murdered by Boyfriend Who "Didn't Want the Child"**

A Colorado man confessed to beating his pregnant girlfriend to death and disposing of her body by running her car off a steep embankment into a grove of trees, where it was later found by three children. Herrera turned himself in and told the FBI that he killed the woman because he didn't want the child she was carrying.

- **Man Shoots Pregnant Girlfriend in the Head Because She Won't Abort**

A Cincinnati man, Tony Ringer, killed his pregnant girlfriend after she refused to have an abortion so he could marry another woman. Ringer shot his girlfriend in the head as she sat in her car with her seven-year-old daughter, who was uninjured. The woman and her six-week-old unborn child died. Ringer pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two consecutive nine-year prison terms, plus three years for using a gun during the crime.

- **Pregnant Mother Tied Up and Stabbed to Death by Boyfriend**

A St. Louis woman who was two-and-a-half months pregnant was tied up and stabbed to death in front of her 5-year-old daughter. The woman's boyfriend, Willis Bailey, Jr., was sentenced to life in prison for killing her.

| Police said he plotted her death to avoid paying child support.

- **Ex-Husband Shoots Pregnant Wife Twice in Abdomen; Kills Mother and Child**

A Salt Lake City man turned himself in for the death of his ex-wife, who was shot to death at her workplace. According to testimony, Roger MacGuire told a co-worker that morning that he was going to kill his wife. A judge ruled that MacGuire could be charged for two murders after prosecutors argued that the number of shots fired and their location—two struck the woman in the abdomen—showed his intent to kill both her and her unborn baby.

- **Pregnant Woman Shot in Head After Requesting Child Support**

A 20-year-old Arizona woman was three months pregnant when she was killed with a gunshot wound to the head. Authorities arrested Raymond Carrasco Garcia, who was believed to be the father of the unborn baby and also of the woman's one-year-old son. The woman's family told police that she had been trying to collect child support from Garcia.

- **Women Nearing Delivery Suffocated and Bludgeoned with Log**

A 22-year-old Bremard, WA woman was close to delivery and had named her unborn daughter when she was raped, tortured, and killed by her ex-boyfriend. Brodie Eric Walrad, received a life sentence for her murder, which took place in the home of the woman's parents. Police said that Walrad suffocated her and bludgeoned her with a log.

- **Abortionist Strangles Girlfriend After Learning of Her Pregnancy**

A California abortionist who was having an affair with a married woman was convicted of strangling the woman after learning she was pregnant. Prosecutors said the woman, a mother of two other children, had told Kevin Paul Anderson she was pregnant the day before he killed her. Anderson was convicted of second-degree murder.

- **Pregnant Woman Stabbed Repeatedly in Abdomen, Strangled to Death**

Gilberto Cano of California was charged with killing his pregnant girlfriend, who was stabbed repeatedly in the abdomen and strangled to death. Prosecutors said the nature of the stab wounds indicated that Cano clearly intended to kill the seven-month-old unborn baby girl. Two witnesses testified that Cano told relatives on the night of his girlfriend's death that he had "injured" or "done something bad" to her.

- **Pregnant Ohio Woman Stabbed to Death and Dumped in Ditch**

LaMarr Parr of Ohio was charged in the stabbing death his 28-year-old girlfriend, who was 10 weeks pregnant. Her body was found in a ditch the day after her death by two bicyclists.

- **Man Charged in Stabbing Death of Pregnant Girlfriend**

Wilson Campoverde was charged in the stabbing death of his 33-year-old pregnant girlfriend. She suffered a stab wound to her abdomen and bled to death from another stab wound in her throat. Campoverde was not charged in the unborn child's death.

| Her pregnancy hindered his career plans.

- **Pregnant Woman Killed in Front of Her Four-Year-Old Son**

Quenton Quortez Thompson of Milwaukee was convicted of shooting his pregnant girlfriend in the head. Thompson was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree intentional homicide of the eight-month-old unborn child under Wisconsin's feticide law and sentenced to life in prison. The woman's four-year-old son witnessed the murder and identified Thompson as his mother's killer.

- **Single Mother Shot to Death, Boyfriend Charged**

A single mother who was four to five months pregnant with her third child when was shot in the head in her Baltimore-area apartment. Her boyfriend, Tjane Charmeise Marshall, was charged with first- and second-degree murder in the deaths of the mother and the unborn child. According to court documents, Marshall had said the baby would "ruin his life" and that "he was going to do something about it."

- **Man Charged With Killing Pregnant Girlfriend, Stuffing Body in Trash Can That Washed Up in Field**

Jerry Lynn Stuart was charged with first-degree murder for allegedly beating his pregnant girlfriend to death. His 21-year-old girlfriend disappeared from her North Carolina home just days before her due date. Her dismembered body was later found in a duct-taped sealed trash can that washed up into a field after a heavy rainstorm.

- **Pregnant Woman Strangled; Boyfriend Didn't Want to Pay Child Support**

Eric Laquine Brown of Mississippi pleaded guilty to strangling his pregnant girlfriend and leaving her body in a burned out car in Memphis. Brown was sentenced to life without parole in his girlfriend's death and a concurrent 20 years for the unborn child's death. Prosecutors said he killed them because he didn't want to pay child support.

- **Man Shoots Wife in Head, Reportedly Because He Found Her Pregnancy Inconvenient**

Charles Stuart of Boston committed suicide after his brother revealed to police that Stuart had shot his pregnant wife in a staged carjacking, causing her death and the death of their unborn son. Stuart had claimed that the couple had been robbed and had apparently shot himself as well to make his story more convincing. He allegedly had not wanted the pregnancy because it hindered his career plans, and planned his wife's death in order to collect life insurance.

- **Pregnant Mother Murdered; Dies After Son Delivered**

A Virginia man who was convicted of assaulting his girlfriend on three separate occasions killed her just months after a judge freed him on a suspended sentence. Richard Johnson's girlfriend was pregnant at the time of her death and doctors managed to deliver her baby boy, but the mother never regained consciousness. Johnson was sentenced to life in prison for his girlfriend's death. The woman's mother was raising the child.

- **Connecticut Woman Killed Two Weeks Before Due Date**

Debbie Florence waged a successful campaign to implement "Jenny's Law" in Connecticut after her 24-year-old daughter was shot and killed outside a friend's home on New Year's Eve, just two weeks before her unborn son was due to be born. Michael Latour, the daughter's ex-boyfriend, was charged in her death. Florence's daughter had told police a few months earlier that she was afraid Latour would kill her. The law allows Connecticut prosecutors to bring additional charges when an attack on a pregnant woman results in the death of her unborn child.

| Her boyfriend didn't want to pay child support.

- **Husband Charged with Strangling Pregnant Wife in Connecticut**

Carolos Claudio of Connecticut was charged with strangling his 31-year-old wife to death when she was seven months pregnant. Her body was found on the floor of her home by a relative.

- **Man Murders Pregnant Wife; Not Charged in Nine-Month-Old Unborn Child's Death**

In Maine, Roscoe B. Sargent was convicted for murdering his pregnant wife, whom he stabbed at least 47 times. Sargent was not charged in the death of the couple's 9-month-old unborn son.

- **Man Kills Pregnant Girlfriend, Buries Her Body in Woods**

Raymond Gregg admitted to police that he killed his pregnant girlfriend and buried her body in the woods in Morristown, TN. Gregg pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 25 years in prison without parole. Prosecutors were unable to charge him with the baby's death because they could not prove the unborn child was viable, as required by Tennessee law.

- **Man Throws Pregnant Ex-Girlfriend Off Bridge onto Interstate**

Ronnie Thomas pleaded guilty to murder after throwing his pregnant ex-girlfriend off an overpass onto the interstate near Crown Point, IN. According to police, Ronnie Thomas beat the woman with a steering wheel security lock after learning she was pregnant by another man, then drove to the overpass, dragged her from the car, and threw her off the bridge into oncoming traffic.

- **Pregnant Woman Shot to Death By Boyfriend; Baby Boy Dies After Delivery**

Robert Darrell Johnson of Indianapolis was sentenced to two 55-year-prison terms for killing his girlfriend, who was nine months pregnant. Prosecutors said that Johnson beat his girlfriend, then shot her after she fell to the floor. Her unborn son died the next day after being delivered by caesarean.

- **Police: Man Charged in Slaying of Pregnant Ex-Girlfriend Had Previously Forced Her to Abort**

Tyrone Raynard Gladden of North Carolina and two other men were charged in the shooting death of Gladden's girlfriend, who was eight-and-a-half months pregnant. Doctors delivered an unborn baby girl who died a month later. According to police records, several people said that Gladden had tried to hire a hit man to kill his girlfriend. One witness told police that Gladden had previously forced his girlfriend to have three abortions and that he tried to get her to abort again.

- **Brooklyn Man Arrested for Strangling Pregnant Girlfriend After She Refused to Abort**

The body of a pregnant 20-year-old college junior was found in Manhattan by a homeless man a few days after she disappeared. An autopsy showed that she had suffocated to death, probably from strangulation. Her boyfriend, Emmanuel

Pierre, 26, was charged with her death. Police said they believed Pierre killed her because she refused to have an abortion. The woman's mother said that she had been planning to care for her grandchild while her daughter finished her education.

For More Examples

These are only a sampling of the pressures faced by girls and women whose unplanned pregnancies inconvenience others. Refer to these web sites for current news, information and more examples of coerced abortion, and pregnancy- and abortion-related violence:

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Portraits of Coercion

“I don’t know why they call it a choice.”



Every Tuesday a bus took students to Planned Parenthood.

**I was only 14.
School counselors arranged it.**

Every Tuesday a scheduled bus picked up students and took them to the Planned Parenthood clinic. School counselors arranged the visits. It was all so organized ... Still today, I feel like I did not decide to have the abortion ... I was only 14 ... The nurse said this was not the time to be asking questions, that I should have asked them sooner.

Gaylene, survivor of two post-abortion suicide attempts

He was furious and insisted the child be aborted.

When I told him, he was furious and insisted that the child be aborted as soon as possible ... I did not want to kill this baby, but my co-dependence and addiction to this man won out. I finally made an appointment with the abortion clinic.

Cynthia Greenwood

The counselor played on my fears.

She told us it would be very difficult for us to have a baby. She said she had three kids herself and the financial aspect was difficult for her. She never gave me alternatives or asked if I wanted to keep the baby; she just kept playing on my fears and making me believe that it would never work out.

Kelly

Everything in me was yelling, “No! No! No!”

Everything within me was yelling, “No! No! No!” But they all advised strongly against my having the child. So I allowed them to control the situation ... Inside, my voice was screaming, “Please do not do this!”

Lee

They all looked down on me for being pregnant.

There I was alone, having an abortion. I was really low ... I didn’t want an abortion ... But all the people at the abortion clinic were real helpful and friendly and tried to make you feel like you were doing the right thing. Nobody else in my life had tried to help me ... Everybody else would just look down their noses at me for being pregnant.

Cathe Birtwell

**I screamed that I didn’t want the abortion.
The doctor said, “Shut up and quit that yelling.”**

I was a victim of incest at 15 ... In spite of the pain and guilt I felt, it was far better to have a baby than the alternative—to kill it. I refused to have an abortion ... My father flew into an uncontrollable rage and demanded that I consent to the abortion ... [The doctor] asked three nurses to hold me while he strapped me to the bed ... I continued to scream that I didn’t want an abortion. He told me, “Shut up and quit that yelling!” ... I was violated by my father ... I was violated again by the abortionist.

Denise*

**He destroyed our apartment.
“Get rid of it. Now!”**

He destroyed our apartment ... and told me to get rid of it. Now! The whole time he cornered me ... throwing things and killing me with his words. The abortion ripped me apart. Any strength I had to leave the abuse was torn away from me.

Mary

**My mother arranged my abortion.
Our pastor had assured her that it was fine.**

My mother arranged my abortion. She didn’t like my boyfriend and wanted to protect my “reputation” ... Our pastor had assured her that having an abortion was fine. No one helped me ...

Jane Crawford

My parents locked me in the house for two weeks.

My parents told me I was to get an abortion. They locked me in the house and took the phone off the hook for two weeks. They told me not to tell anyone I was pregnant ... Two weeks later they took me 240 miles to Spokane for the abortion ...

Julie Woodley

My husband said he’d leave if I didn’t abort.

[My husband] told me, “Either you have an abortion, or I’ll leave you.”

Sandra Morean

My mom said that I must abort.

I told my boyfriend I was pregnant and he acted as if he were happy. He left town a short time after that leaving me to face the pressure of what to do. My mother figured out that I was pregnant ... and she told me I must abort. She said my life would be ruined if I stayed pregnant. She also sent me to Planned Parenthood [and two counselors] ... who all agreed with my mother and counseled me to abort. I had no one who said that I could give life to my child ...

Carla Matrisch

The doctor begged me to abort.

[The doctor said that the medication I'd been taking] causes birth defects. He was very concerned about my decision not to have an abortion and literally pleaded with me ... "Please reconsider ... There are so many dangers. You're a fool to think of not aborting." [I've suspected he was afraid I'd sue him if the baby had birth defects] ... My decision came from a seed the doctor had planted ... that I should have that abortion. He was so serious that it frightened me.

Deborah Hulebak

Just to get them off my back . . .

I finally told everyone that I would have the abortion just to get them off my back.

Anonymous, survivor of post-abortion suicide attempt

I sped away—my mother caught up with me.

When I told my mom I was pregnant, she immediately made the appointment [for an abortion]. I kept hanging the phone up on her and she kept re-dialing. Finally she got through ... The next morning, I crept downstairs, got into my car and sped away—she quickly followed and finally caught up with me.

Laura O'Brien

His family pushed for abortion.

His family pushed for abortion—because I was in their home and they were having to help care for my children while I was bedridden ... I felt obligated, totally helpless. A part of me died that day.

Lori Rachuleta

After making us feel like dirt, she reassured us Medicaid would pay for the abortion.

Since [my husband] was unable to find another job, we had to go on welfare ... When our caseworker found out I was pregnant with a third child, she was just disgusted with us. She urged us to have an abortion, saying, "You just can't go around having babies all the rest of your life." After making us feel like dirt, she reassured us that Medicaid would pay for the abortion.

From that point on, there was pressure from everyone around me to have the abortion. The only one that didn't want me to do it was my mother-in-law who was herself a survivor of a failed abortion attempt. Confusion mounted, tension and pressure took control, and I became another victim of "free choice."

Lorijo Nerad

I wanted to keep my child but I had no say.

My mother took me to [the clinic] ... They told her ... abortion was the best decision. Everyone made the decision for me. I really wanted to keep my child even at that age. At that time, parents made the decision for a minor. I really had no say.

Tambra Plummer

My relatives made the arrangements.

The baby's father retracted his marriage proposal as soon as he found out I was pregnant. I had no money, no medical insurance, and didn't realize that there were places to turn to for help ... My relatives [made] all the arrangements ... Everyone was there to give advice before the abortion, but afterwards I was on my own. If I had had love, support, and above all, the true facts, I would have never even considered an abortion. The pain never goes away.

Carolyn Walton

It wasn't *my* choice. It should be called "Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice."

No one would support me ... The worst day of my life got closer and closer ... I think in more cases than not, it isn't the woman's choice. It should be called "Your Parents' and the Guy's Choice ..." I needed someone to tell me that it was possible to keep my baby, but no one did ...

Amanda

*name has been changed

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