Proposed: South Carolina Pregnant Patient Bill of Rights

*Rights are not entitlements and come with some degree of personal responsibility and accountability. This proposed bill of rights needs to be scrutinized by legal professionals to determine how they can be put into practice*.

If you are a pregnant woman and you are seeking pregnancy related medical treatment, at this or any other facility, you are entitled to be informed of certain legal rights, which is the purpose of this notification.

Those rights include, but are not limited to:

1. You have a right to receive accurate and complete information about your pregnancy and the viability of your pregnancy, in language that you can understand, including the right to an interpreter.

2. You have the right to a limited obstetric ultrasound, and the right to see the ultrasound while it is in progress, and understand what an ultrasound is and what you see on your ultrasound.

3. You have a right to be informed of your Rh factor, and if Rh negative, to receive treatment for that condition and to receive detailed information on the risks to future pregnancies which are inherent with pregnancy, or termination of pregnancy.

4. You have a right to consult face to face, prior to an abortion, with the doctor who is to perform your abortion or the doctor who prescribes an abortion causing drug, before signing a consent form for that procedure.

5. You have a right to be free from coercion or undue influence by anyone, including your parents, your husband or boyfriend, or any other persons, insurance companies, government agents, employers or medical staff. **This means that you cannot be forced against your will to have an abortion.**

6. You have a right to protection from threats, intimidation or unsafe relationships or domestic circumstances for yourself and your children.

7. You have a right to protection from those who would use you to profit from the sex trade.

8. You have a right to informed consent to pregnancy termination, including complete and accurate information on risks, benefits and alternatives to pregnancy termination in language that you can understand.

9. You have a right to informed consent about carrying your pregnancy to term, including complete and accurate information on risks, benefits and alternatives to carrying your pregnancy to term in language that you can understand..

10. You have a right to refuse any medical treatment of your own body.

11. You have a right to ask questions about your condition and to get answers that you can understand.

12. You have a right to change your mind on any decision.

13. You have a right to information on access to pre-natal care by qualified medical professionals.

14. You have a right to information on perinatal hospice, adoption resources, shepherding homes, and maternity homes or any alternatives to pregnancy termination.

15. You have a right to be informed of availability of treatment to reverse the effects of RU 486 or remove laminaria used in cervical dilation abortion procedures.

16. You have a right to expect competence of the medical facility staff. You have a right to be cared for in safe, clean and sanitary conditions at the abortion clinic or medical pregnancy care facility.

17. You have a right to expect competent medical aftercare, following your delivery or your abortion.

18. You have a right to information about and access to private, parochial or public sponsored agencies which provide family assistance programs.

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