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Wilson Carrie Brock (615) 206-6624
393 Maple St., St., 201 Gallatin, TN 37066
170 North Main, Memphis, TN 38103

Information

For Women Under 18

Who Are Pregnant

1-855-250-3440



Are you less than 18 years old and pregnant?

If you are under 18 and you are pregnant, you may be worried and confused about what to do next. *You can call the toll free Tennessee Department of Children’s Services hot line number at 1-855-250-3440. They can tell you about resources that can help you with this difficult decision and that can help you if you choose to continue your pregnancy and parent your child or give the baby up for adoption.* State law requires DCS to provide you with written information about the procedures you must follow if you choose to have an abortion, which is the reason for this brochure.

What are my options?

You have several options, including continuing your pregnancy and either parenting the child or allowing a relative to raise the child, or giving the baby up for adoption. Another option is to have an abortion. If you decide to have an abortion, State law requires that you have the written consent of one of your parents or your legal guardian before an abortion can be performed. If your parents refuse to give consent or you do not want to ask for their help, you can ask a Juvenile Court Judge to drop this requirement for you. Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-10-301 *et seq.* requires that DCS provide a “court advocate” (a case manager with specialized training in the court proceedings required by this law), who can provide you with further information.

How do I ask the Judge for help?

To be excused from the parental consent requirement, you must file a petition (fill out a form) in a Juvenile Court (in some counties the General Sessions Court). You may file this in any county in Tennessee. All documents from the court proceedings will be sealed to protect your confidentiality, and the hearing is not open to the public. To protect your privacy, you will use your initials instead of your name on the petition, except for one copy, which is sealed. If there is a person who is at least 18 years old who can help you, that person (called a “next friend” under the law) may participate in the court proceedings on your behalf.

What will it cost to go to court?

The courts may not charge you any fees for the court proceedings.

What happens at the hearing?

The court will determine whether you are mature and well informed enough to decide to have an abortion, or whether the abortion would be in your best interest.

Will I need a lawyer to go to Court?

The court will advise you when you file the petition that you have a right to court-appointed counsel, and will appoint a lawyer for you upon your request. You will not have to pay for this lawyer.

How long will it take to go to court?

The court must then reach a decision on your situation within 48 hours. It is possible for the 48 hour time limit to be extended at your request.

What if the Judge denies my request?

If the judge does not excuse you from the consent requirement, you can appeal the Judge’s decision to a higher court. If you think you want to appeal, it is very important to ask for a lawyer when you file your petition, because you have only 24 hours from the time of the court’s decision, or from its failure to decide in 48 hours, to file your appeal with the Circuit Court. If you need to appeal to the Circuit Court and then the Tennessee Supreme Court, the process could take more than two weeks to obtain a final decision.

DCS HOTLINE

1-855-250-3440

Will DCS help me pay for the abortion?

No, DCS does not pay for abortions.

Will DCS help me decide what I should do?

No, DCS will give you information about going to court and provide someone who can go with you, and coordinate with your lawyer. If you need help in deciding, DCS will refer you to other professionals who can help you.

How can I get in touch with DCS?

Call the DCS court advocate for your area listed below in this brochure. You may also call the DCS toll free hot line at 1-855-250-3440 to obtain more information. The hot line is answered 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Central Standard Time) Monday through Friday and from Noon to 5:00 PM on Saturdays.

List of Court Advocates

Anderson	Kristi Vaughn (865) 425-4540 182 Frank Diggs Dr. St. 100, Clinton, TN 37716
Bedford	Kellie Harmon (931) 454-1934 151 Freeman St. Tullahoma, TN 37388
Benton	Phyllis Webb (731) 286-8304 1979 St. John Ave, Suite F, Dyersburg, TN 38024
Bledsoe	Angela Mainord (423) 775-2852 111 4 th Ave. Dayton, TN 37321
Blount	Sandra Sheets (865) 475-0722 613 West 11-E, New Market, TN 37820
Bradley	Tara Felts (423) 728-7931 2703 Ralph Buckner Blvd., Cleveland, TN 37311
Campbell	Pamela Becker (865) 425-4473 182 Franks Diggs Dr., Suite 100, Clinton, TN 37716
Cannon	Tonya Scott (931) 837-8259 620 A Roosevelt Dr., Sparta, TN 38583
Carroll	Phyllis Webb (731) 286-8304 1979 St. John Ave., Suite F, Dyersburg, TN 38024
Carter	Lagena Rutherford (423) 9795285 2557 Plymouth Rd., Johnson City, TN 37601
Cheatham	Patty Oldham (931)503-3213 350 Pageant Lane, Suite 401, Clarksville, TN 37040
Chester	Mary Duke (731) 421-2014 225 Martin Luther Dr., Jackson TN 38301

Claiborne	Sandra Sheets (865) 475-0722 613 West 11-E, New Market, TN 37820
Clay	Gayla Jestice (931) 646-3119 1300 Salem Rd., Cookeville, TN 38501
Cocke	Sandra Sheets (865) 475-0722 613 West 11-E, New Market, TN 37820
Coffee	Kellie Harmon (931) 454-1934 151 Freeman St. Tullahoma, TN 37388
Crockett	Phyllis Webb (731) 286-8304 1979 St. John Ave, Suite F, Dyersburg, TN 38024
Cumberland	Gayla Jestice (931) 646-3119 1300 Salem Rd., Cookeville, TN 38501
Davidson	Sherry Porter (615) 360-4450 900 2 nd Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37243
Decatur	Mary Duke (731) 421-2014 225 Martin Luther Dr., Jackson TN 38301
DeKalb	Tonya Scott (931) 837-8259 620 A Roosevelt Dr., Sparta, TN 38583
Dickson	Lindsay Hester (615) 494-4540 434 Jayhawk Ct., Murfreesboro, TN 37128
Dyer	Phyllis Webb (731) 286-8304 1979 St. John Ave, Suite F, Dyersburg, TN 38024
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Fentress	Gayla Jestice (931) 646-3119 1300 Salem Rd., Cookeville, TN 38501
Franklin	Tawnya Fogarty (423) 634-3761 311 Martin Luther Kind Dr., 2 nd floor, Chattanooga, TN 37203
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Grundy	Brandie Tanner (423) 942-3485 4930 Main St., Jasper, TN 37347
Hamblin	Sandra Sheets (865) 475-0722 613 West 11-E, New Market, TN 37820
Hamilton	Tawnya Fogarty (423) 634-3761 311 Martin Luther Kind Dr., 2 nd floor, Chattanooga, TN 37203
Hancock	Lagena Rutherford (423) 979-5285 2557 Plymouth Rd., Johnson City, TN 37601
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Haywood	Mary Duke (731) 421-2014 225 Martin Luther Dr., Jackson TN 38301
Henderson	Mary Duke (731) 421-2014 225 Martin Luther Dr., Jackson TN 38301
Henry	Phyllis Webb (731) 286-8304 1979 St. John Ave., St. F, Dyersburg, TN 38024