



SAMPLE  
SAMPLE  
SAMPLE

# CHOICES

---

The Choice is Yours. Choose to Know.®

# YOUR CHOICES

**Parenting / Adoption / Abortion**

You may feel incredibly overwhelmed. That's why we are here. Not to pressure. Not to push. Just to inform, support and walk with you.

Every woman who is facing a pregnancy has the option to parent, make an adoption plan or abort the pregnancy. It is important to know all the facts before you decide.

## ABORTION PILLS

UP TO 10 WEEKS AFTER LAST PERIOD

This non-surgical option involves several pills and multiple steps.

- The first medication, mifepristone, blocks the pregnancy hormones that support the embryo.
- The second medication, misoprostol, is taken hours or days later to cause the uterus to cramp and release the pregnancy.
- Follow-up care should be done to confirm the abortion is complete.

The second medication is taken at home, so the cramping and bleeding occur with no direct medical supervision. Average bleeding lasts 9-16 days but can last more than 30 days.

If the abortion is not complete, the abortion pills may be given again, or a surgical abortion may be performed. This happens 2-7 times out of 100 cases.

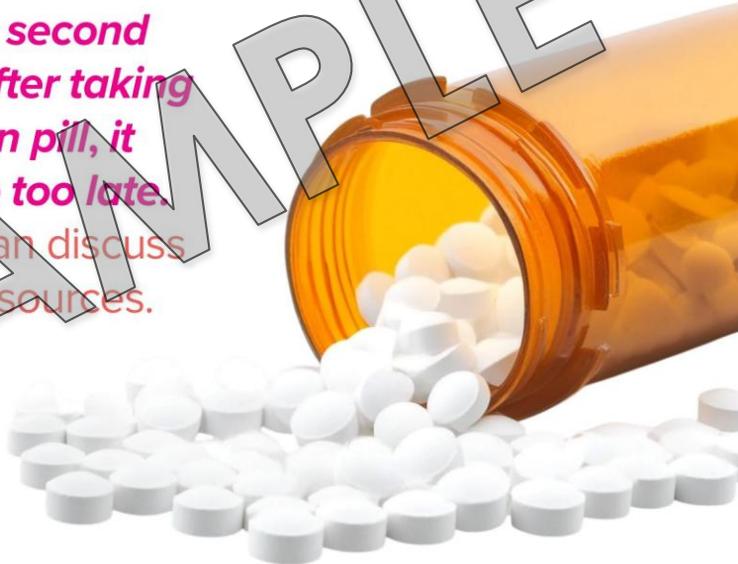
Possible Side Effects

+ Cramping      + Nausea/Vomiting      + Bleeding  
+ Tenderness or Pain      + Diarrhea

The degree to which these occur depends on the procedure and length of pregnancy.

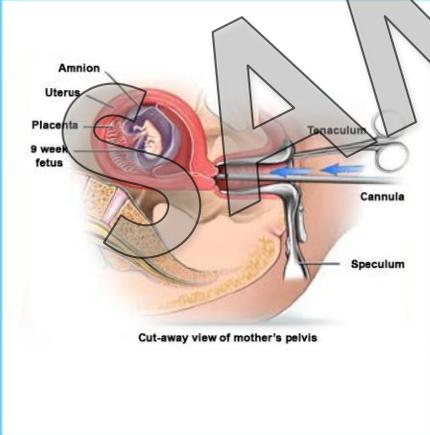
***If you have second thoughts after taking the abortion pill, it may not be too late.***

***Our clinic can discuss available resources.***

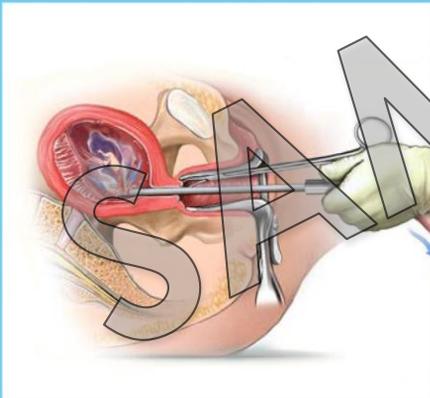


# SURGICAL ABORTION

6-14 WEEKS AFTER LAST PERIOD



A speculum inserted into the vagina. Then the cervix - the opening to the uterus or womb - is opened with instruments.



Next, the pregnancy is suctioned out with either a syringe or suction machine.



If needed, an instrument is inserted into the uterus and scraped along the uterine walls to ensure all fetal tissue is removed.

# LATE SURGICAL ABORTION

12-40 WEEKS AFTER LAST PERIOD



**DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE FETUS, THE SURGERY MAY INVOLVE MULTIPLE DAYS:**

- The cervix is softened and opened through medications or laminaria.
- The fetus is removed by forceps and/or suctioning.
- For third trimester abortions, a medication or saline solution may be injected into the amniotic sac to stop the heart of the fetus, before it is removed by forceps and/or suctioning.

**POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS - SIDE EFFECTS THAT ARE SEVERE OR NOT CONSIDERED NORMAL CAN OCCUR AFTER ANY ABORTION.**

- + Hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding)
- + Incomplete Abortions
- + Infection / Sepsis
- + Allergic Reaction to Medication
- + Anesthesia Complications
- + Damage to Cervix or Other Organs
- + Scarring / Puncturing of the Uterus

# FETAL DEVELOPMENT



## WEEK 5

By the end of this week, the brain & spinal cord forms and a heartbeat may be detected during an ultrasound.

## WEEK 6

Arm, leg, ear, eyes and mouth begin to form. The heart rate will increase and is expected to be around 120 beats per minute.

## WEEK 7

Bones begin to develop and the embryo's brain and face are growing.

## WEEK 8

All major organs and body systems are developing, as the fetus reaches a length of 0.5 - 1 inch long.

## NEXT STEPS FOR YOU

- Schedule a lab-quality pregnancy test.
- Review your health history with a medical professional.
- Receive an ultrasound to verify pregnancy.
- Check your status with complete STI testing.
- Have a conversation with your partner.
- Consider your emotional support and available resources.
- Process your personal thoughts about abortion.



**Individuals with previous emotional or mental health issues, those who are being pressured to have an abortion, or those with moral or religious beliefs that conflict with abortion may be more at risk for these potential side effects.**

**WEEK 9**

The beginnings of teeth and taste buds are forming and the fetus may be seen moving during an ultrasound.

**WEEK 10**

The arms, hands, fingers, feet and toes are fully formed.

**WEEK 11**

The fetus can open and close its fists and mouth. Its knees, elbows and ankles are working, but it's too soon to feel any kicks.

**WEEK 12**

All the organs, limbs, bones, and muscles are present and will continue to develop. The baby is now 2.5 inches long.

## **POTENTIAL EMOTIONAL COMPLICATIONS AFTER ABORTION**

While some women report relief after an abortion, others report a variety of emotions, such as:

- + Anxiety
- + Loneliness/Withdrawal
- + Anger
- + Sadness
- + Relationship Issues
- + Regret
- + Guilt
- + Difficulty Sleeping
- + Harmful Thoughts

Services after an abortion may be available at our clinic. Ask your provider for more information.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE



This article was produced by:  
Medical Advisory Panel: Dr. Chris Roberts, MD OBGYN;  
Dr. Tracy Godfrey, MD; Karl Wendt, Ph.D., AAMFT;  
Mischa Long, RN, BSN; Karolyn Schrage, RN, BSN

Published 2025 © LifeChoices Health Network  
531 East 7th Street • Joplin, MO 64801 • (417) 624-8030  
[www.choicesmedical.org](http://www.choicesmedical.org)