

Adoption

1. **Foster Care:** Child is placed in the private home of a state certified caregiver referred to as a "foster parent". The state via the family court and child welfare agency stand in loco parentis to the minor making all legal decisions, while the foster parent is responsible for the day to day care of said minor.
2. **Kinship:** Children living with other family members or stepparent
3. **Safe Haven:** Allows a birth parent to leave an infant (up to 30 days old) with nurse, doctor, police officer, fire fighter, or EMT.

Abortion

4. **Spontaneous abortion:** Loss of a pregnancy without outside intervention before 20 weeks' gestation.
5. **Abortion:** The termination of a pregnancy.
6. **Dilation and curettage (D & C):** Dilate cervix and scrape away embryo or fetus (first 12 weeks).
7. **Uterine aspiration:** Women is given an injection of a local anesthetic. Cervix is gently opened by instruments and flexible tube is inserted through the vagina into the uterus. The embryo or fetus and other contents are sucked out by a vacuum machine (first 12 weeks).
8. **Saline injection:** A salt solution (first trimester) (after 16 weeks).
9. **Prostaglandin chemical abortion:** Chemicals which cause the uterus to contract intensely, pushing out the baby (after 6 months for medical reasons).

ABORTION DEBATE ROLE PLAY

Supports the Abortion

Lois: You are a seventeen-year-old woman. You are ten weeks pregnant. You were using a diaphragm with spermicide. You had lost weight and had not had your diaphragm refitted and believe this is why it became dislodged during sex. You want an abortion, but you are very conflicted. You were raised in a conservative home, and your parents oppose abortion. You want to go to college and to medical school but feel you won't be able to with a child. You are also concerned because you had a lot of alcohol in the first few weeks of pregnancy before you knew you were pregnant, and you are afraid of fetal alcohol syndrome. You are close to your family and want to be honest and up front with them about the situation. You have decided to tell your family the situation at a family dinner. You have invited some friends to support you.

Mike: You are the seventeen-year-old male partner of Lois, a seventeen-year-old girl who is pregnant by you. You agree with her wish to have an abortion. You don't feel you are ready to get married now although the two of you have discussed getting married after you have both finished college. You are not financially able to care for a baby and would have to quit the football team to get a job. You are hoping to get a football scholarship to pay for college and could not if you had to quit to become a father. You have already indicated that you will not be involved in raising the child if Lois chooses to have the baby.

Nancy: You are Lois's eighteen-year-old friend. You became pregnant when you were fifteen, and had a baby at sixteen. You dropped out of school and are now getting your GED at night while your parents, with whom you live, take care of the baby. You work full-time to support yourself and your child and realize that college is out of the question, at least for now. Although your boyfriend offered to marry you, you decided that would not be a good idea since you were both so young. You feel that you have lost some of the best years of your life because you have no social life and rarely have time to see your friends anymore. You love your child very much, but you worry that she will not have the opportunities she might have had if you had been able to get a degree and a better job. You often don't feel that you are providing her with everything she needs, and you are frequently depressed. If you had it to do over again, you would have an abortion and are urging Lois to have one.

Josh: You are Lois's older brother, age twenty. You feel strongly that Lois should be able to have an abortion if she wishes. You believe that no one has a right to make that decision for her. You feel that it is her body and her life. Knowing how young Lois is and that her boyfriend Mike will not marry her or help her if she keeps the baby, you believe that her life will be altered drastically by having a baby. You understand that Lois tried to prevent the pregnancy by using contraception, but an accident occurred. You think the baby and Lois will really suffer if she is forced to have the baby; she will not be able to go to college, she will become a financial burden on either her parents or the welfare system, and she will lose her childhood.

Does Not Support the Abortion

Mom: Your seventeen-year-old daughter is pregnant and wishes to have an abortion. You are opposed to abortion, but in this situation, religion is not your main concern. You are worried about how an abortion will affect your little girl's health, her emotional well-being, and her ability to have children in the future. Lois is your baby, and you are afraid she'll be consumed by guilt and remorse if she has the abortion. Motherhood is not such a bad option. After all, you've loved being a mom.

Dad: You are strongly opposed to abortion. Your seventeen-year-old daughter is pregnant and is considering having an abortion. You believe that Lois should not have had sex before she was married. You really feel that once a person makes a mistake, they must take responsibility for it and pay the consequences. The only way to make things right now is for Lois to marry her boyfriend and have the baby. You feel that Mike should be forced to marry your daughter.

Aunt Becky: You are Dad's younger sister and Lois's aunt. You believe that abortion is murder. You feel that Lois's unborn child has not done anything wrong and has a right to be protected. There are many childless couples who would love to have a child. You know of organizations that offer financial support for Lois to have the baby and put it up for adoption.

Laura: You are Lois's twenty-five-year-old sister. You became pregnant as a teen, were too afraid to talk to your parents, and decided to have an abortion, which you now regret. Because of the stress over the decision to have an abortion, you and your boyfriend broke up. Although you have gone on to marry and have two children, you often think about the baby you did not have and feel very sad and guilty about it.

Additional Roles

Uncle Hugh: You are Mom's brother, Lois's uncle, and a doctor. You do not have strong opinions for or against abortion, but you want Lois to have the medical knowledge she needs to make the decision. You believe that, medically speaking, abortions are very safe if done under legal conditions by a qualified clinician in the first trimester. You know that having more than two first-trimester abortions or having a second-trimester abortion does increase a woman's risk for miscarriage during future pregnancies.

You also believe that women may have emotional difficulties after having abortions, especially if they feel they were forced to have the abortion, do not receive adequate counseling, or experience extreme conflict over whether or not to have an abortion.

Observers: After the dinner gathering, it will be your job to decide who made convincing arguments and to lead a discussion about the values and opinions expressed. Do all of the supporters of the abortion express the same values and arguments? Do all of those who oppose the abortion express the same values and arguments?