

	<b>Termination of Pregnancy Counselling Procedure</b>	<b>Procedure Number</b> <i>CHC-PSW-0003</i>	<b>Version Nos:</b> <b>3</b>
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## 1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed to ensure that women seeking a termination of pregnancy are provided services that are non biased, consistent and comply with the relevant laws, professional standards and ethical standards with regard to women seeking termination of pregnancy.

## 2. Application/Responsibilities

This procedure is to be followed by all staff who are authorised by the West Coast District Health Board to provide pregnancy-counselling services.

## 3. Definitions

For the purpose of this Procedure:

**Client** is meant to mean the individual who seeks the termination of pregnancy

**Pregnancy Counsellor** is taken to mean WCDHB social worker who is authorised to provide counselling services and meets the professional requirements to do so as defined in the Standards of Practice for the Provision of Counselling Handbook (Counselling Advisory Committee 1998)

**Service** is taken to mean pregnancy counselling

**Pregnancy Termination** is an abortion as defined in the Contraception, Sterilization & Abortion Act 1977

**Child/Young Person** is taken to mean an individual under the age of 16 years.

## 4. Responsibility

For the purpose of this Procedure:

All **Pregnancy Counsellors** are required to

- ensure they abide by the requirements of this Procedure;
- abide by all WCDHB Health and Safety Policy and Procedures.
- ensure they act in accordance with the Crimes Act 1961 & Contraception, Sterilization & Abortion Act 1977 at all times
- only provide this service to clients if they hold full membership of ANZASW and are currently
- engaged in regular professional supervision as defined in the Standards for Practice for Provision of Counselling (Counselling Advisory Committee)

## 5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- Pregnancy Counselling Options Manual
- Professional Supervision for the Counsellor
- Annual Education Update for Counsellors

## 6. Process

1.00 Pregnancy counsellors are to ensure they have a client referral from the woman's own medical practitioner in the first instance.

1.01 On initial engagement with the client the pregnancy counsellor must ensure a signed WCDHB Consent Form is completed by the client.



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- 1.02 Pregnancy counsellors will provide accurate information regarding the nature of the pregnancy termination procedure and associated risks before any referral or counselling report is forwarded to either the certifying consultant or to the licensed institution.
- 1.03 Counselling will be provided on an as required basis to the client either pre or post termination.
- 1.04 When to client has made a decision to proceed further with the termination procedure the counselling report should be signed by the client and forwarded to the certifying consultant or licensed institution and an appointment made for the client with the certifying consultant for a final consideration of whether the procedure should be completed.
- 1.05 In respect of this service Lyndhurst Hospital & Christchurch Women's Hospital are the licensed institutions.
- 1.06 In respect of first trimester pregnancy (pre 12 week gestation) were the certifying consultation does not consider the client meets the requirements for a termination procedure under the crimes act 1961 then no further attempts should be made assist organise a termination on behalf of the women. Ongoing counselling should be offered
- 1.07 In respect of a second trimester pregnancy ( 12 to 20 weeks gestation) were the certifying consultant does not consider the client meets the requirements for a termination procedure under the crimes act 1961 then no further attempt should be made to assist organise a termination on behalf of the women. Ongoing counselling should be offered.
- 1.08 In respect of a second trimester pregnancy (12 to 20 weeks gestation) were Christchurch Women's Hospital will not offer to perform a termination procedure due to out of area rule or provide an appointment with a certifying consultant then the attached flowchart of appendix 1 must be followed.

## **7. Precautions And Considerations**

- This Procedure is provided as a guide to consistent decision making a does not override other relevant WCDHB Policies And Procedures.

## **8. References**

- Adoption Act 1995
- Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977
- Crimes Act 1961
- Official Information Act 1982
- Privacy Act 1993
- Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights 1996
- Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989
- Standards of Practice for the Provision of Counselling (Abortion Supervisory Committee 1998)



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### 9. Related Documents

West Coast DHB Informed Consent Procedure

West Coast DHB Clinical Documentation Procedure

West Coast DHB Consent Forms

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