

SAFETY ISSUES

Sidewalk Counseling is a legal endeavor to practice freedom of speech. In these times when our religious rights are being threatened, our need to hold onto the rights we still have is imperative. Even though Sidewalk Counseling is legal, it can still be very emotional and controversial. Sidewalk Counselors should always take precautions and be aware of situations that could arise from an angry abortion provider, client or even a bystander.

- Don't counsel alone
- Stay calm and non-combative, especially with people who are agitated
- Back out of situations that are escalating
- Never have physical contact with clients or escorts
- Remember that no one has a right to physically aggress you

DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

Sidewalk Counseling should be as personal as possible, but counselors deal with many situations. For instance, different factors may mean that signs are the only way to reach women. Sidewalk Counseling should not be loud or rude, but if you are across a parking lot, raising your voice may be necessary. Consider what would be appropriate in a given circumstance.

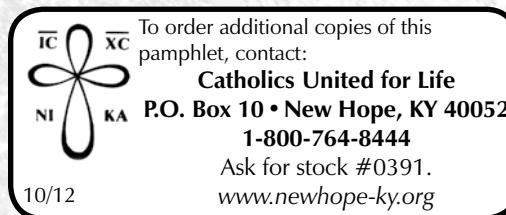
UNITY

In recent years, there is a lot more diversity in the pro-life movement on every level. People on the sidewalk often represent different groups, faiths and approaches. Respect, collaboration between groups and a sense of charitable unity are essential. We do not want to let the differences between approaches work against unity. Create opportunity for dialogue and friendship through communication and common events.

If you are having difficulty maintaining your legal rights or have questions about your rights, contact Catholics United for Life.

...By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems... And, by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. That father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion.

Bl. Mother Teresa,
National Prayer Breakfast



SIDEWALK COUNSELING

No one lives alone.
No one sins alone.
No one is saved alone.
The lives of others
continually spill
over into mine:
in what I think,
say, do and achieve.
And conversely,
my life spills over
into that of others:
for better and
for worse.

Spe Salvi,
Pope Benedict XVI

Presence

God values presence when He calls us to be present to the sick, the hungry, the frightened, the imprisoned.

OUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED BECAUSE —

- Babies are saved even when we don't see it
- Women need help after an abortion as well
- Most abortions are repeat — your presence might affect future abortion decisions

EVEN WHEN BABIES ARE NOT SAVED, OUR PRESENCE—

- Testifies to the dignity of the individual children who die
- Creates a public place of mourning for the harm of abortion to our culture
- Reaches out to the abortion providers and supporters
- Keeps the plight of the unborn ever present
- Is our own opportunity for grace

Charity is love received and given. It is “grace”.... Love is revealed and made present by Christ (cf. Jn. 13:1) and “poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 5:5). As the objects of God’s love, men and women become subjects of charity; they are called to make themselves instruments of grace, so as to pour forth God’s charity and to weave networks of charity.

Pope Benedict XVI - *Caritas in Veritate*

SIDEWALK COUNSELING

is a direct intervention in front of an abortion center to rescue all involved from the horror of abortion. Some Sidewalk Counselors speak to the women going in and others choose to be constant prayer partners.

Prayer

WE ALONE CAN DO NOTHING — ONLY BY PRAYER AND RELIANCE ON GOD CAN WE:

- Convert the hearts of parents and abortion providers
- Convert our own hearts to genuine love
- Overcome the pressures that convince people to lose hope, believing that their goals, comfort or struggles are more important than life itself
- Make reparation for the sins connected with abortion and honor God as Creator
- Be unified with all pro-life workers
- Sustain our own hope and trust in God



Personal

Sidewalk Counseling is an honest, as well as compassionate, appeal in each woman's best interest and a final appeal to rescue an individual life.

MAKE YOUR PRESENCE PERSONAL BY:

- Being there for each individual baby and his or her family
- Communicate with respect, kindness and honesty
- Know your local resources
- Being informed about the true facts on abortion
- Being part of a pro-life community