

GUIDELINES for PRO-LIFE PRESENCE at PRO-LIFE EVENTS and ABORTIONIST'S SITE
All public pro-life witnessing MUST BE PEACEFUL and LAWFUL.

NOTE: The guidelines are geared toward vigils, but some of the points - specifically or in general - apply to rallies, marches, meetings, social media postings, communications with legislators, personal discussions, etc.)

Your participation in a public pro-life awareness event or your presence at an abortion facility is an important affirmation of LIFE, exercise of your Constitutional right to free speech and assembly, and a witness against the tragedy of abortion. Your pro-life witness is seen by those contemplating abortion, those who know or will know someone with an 'unwanted' pregnancy, and those hurt by a past abortion decision.

You are the face of the preborn! You are the image of pro-life.

- Stay with a partner.
- Stay on public property (e.g. sidewalks). Do not go on the facility's property/parking lot (even if beckoned by a client or staff of the facility).
- Do not block access of cars to/from driveways or pedestrians to doors or along sidewalks.
- Carry a cell phone with camera.
- Carry a pro-life pamphlet/card with pro-life assistance contact info.
- Eating, loud talking & laughter are out of place at vigils and abortion sites (the preborn have died there).
- Praying, singing, Scripture reading – do this without disturbing pro-lifers who aren't with your group.
- Do Not Shout – at patients, workers, residents, police, those driving by, etc. Don't condemn.
- Calling out across a distance to abortion-bound parents should be done prudently if at all (e.g. not yelling over traffic noise). What you say and what the stressed client "hears" may not be the same (e.g., you say "Please don't let them kill your baby," but she may hear: "YOU'RE A BABY KILLER!!")
- Keep an arm's length away from abortion advocates, clients, workers, etc. Don't touch them or take other actions that may be perceived as aggressive, harassing or assault.
- Hold signs so they can be read by vehicle/pedestrian traffic. Hold signs tightly; larger ones should have handles or string to loop over the neck.
- Don't wave signs in front of traffic and jump around – it's distracting/dangerous. Don't sit/kneel over or off the curb (it's dangerous to you, fellow pro-lifers and drivers).
- Discussion & debate is good – arguing is not. Step away from potential confrontations to diffuse heated situations. (We're not looking for fights or martyrs.)
- Do not shadow (follow along closely) pedestrians or try to force literature on them when they've said they're not interested. Don't toss literature into a car.
- Respond to hecklers gently or not at all. Leave them with a positive life-affirming comment.

Periodic self-awareness check - to help us focus our earnestness & energy:

**** Am I being respectful?** *Treat others with the dignity you would like them to give you.*

**** Am I acting in a way that would be welcoming to an abortion-bound mother?**

**** Is my behavior reinforcing the liberal stereotype of pro-lifers as nasty screaming people?**

**** Am I belittling the abortion business employee/volunteer (who may be post-abortive)?** (E.g. using words like murder, killer, and hell may not be the best approach.)

**** If I call out to clients or speak with passersby, am I leaving them with a good message/image of pro-life?**

**** Might my actions instigate trouble with the abortion facility and make it harder for future pro-life vigils?**

**** Am I staying focused on the purpose of my presence?**