

SOLACE FOR MOTHERS: Healing Birth Trauma

The following questions are provided as a resource from Solace for Mothers, Inc. to assist pregnant women and their partners in finding a doctor or midwife who will respect their legal right to informed consent during maternity care.

Do you explain the risks benefits and alternatives to all treatments, procedures and medications before they are administered?

How do you respond when a woman refuses to consent to a proposed treatment?

Do you provide alternatives to treatment when a patient/client refuses?

Under what circumstances would you "fire" a patient/client?

If I feel pressured to give consent to a proposed treatment, will you give more information and discuss it with me, and/or give me the opportunity to discuss it privately with the support people I have present?

Do you allow a woman to give informed consent to procedures that you may think of as routine or standard (e.g. IV, heart rate monitoring, vaginal exams, breaking the water, shot of pitocin to expel the placenta)?

Do you allow women to give informed consent for situations where there may be a facility/provider preference, but are not based in a medical need (e.g. position while in labor or pushing, freedom of movement during labor, eating or drinking during labor)?

Do you allow women to give informed consent every time her baby leaves her arms/room and is placed in the care of a nurse, including immediately after birth if the baby is not placed on Mom, or is taken away from Mom?

Do you allow parents to give informed consent each time any procedure is done on their infant, even routine procedures (e.g. weighing, measuring, shots, blood draws, bathing, warming, etc.)?

Do you encourage parents to prepare a birth plan and discuss the birth plan with you before labor begins?

In high-risk situations or emergencies, do you maintain your commitment to "informed consent?"