

WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly Newsletter

We're so glad you're here!

In The News...

BY: JULIE DIXON, STAFF NURSE

New study reveals dramatic discrepancy between FDA's reporting on serious adverse events related to the abortion pill and the raw numbers demonstrated by insurance claim data analysis. The approval process for Mifepristone (the abortion pill) has been fraught with controversy from its inception in the mid-1990s. With encouragement from the Clinton administration, the FDA accepted the application for approval submitted by the eugenics based organization Population Council in 1996. It was approved by the FDA under a little-used approval process for "certain new drug products that have been studied for their safety and effectiveness in treating serious or life-threatening illnesses."¹ In essence, the FDA had to consider pregnancy a serious or life-threatening illness to grant approval so quickly. Four years later, the initial approval was granted under a strict criteria-based process. A couple of these criteria included a 7-week gestational limit and hands-on physician contact over multiple appointments. Over the course of the next 2 decades, these safeguards have been chipped away leading to an increase in serious adverse event reporting, including maternal death.

Weakening FDA Safeguards For Mifepristone	2000 Clinton Initial Approval	2023 Biden REMS Changes	2016 Obama REMS* Changes
Required number of in-person visits	3	1	0
Maximum gestational age	7 weeks	10 weeks	10 weeks
Drugs prescribed only by physician	Yes	No	No
Drugs dispensed only in office	Yes	Yes	No
Drugs taken only in office	Yes	No	No
Required in-office follow up	Yes	No	No
Required reporting of adverse events	Yes	No	No

*Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy

The FDA altered safeguards but never updated the safety data. It continues to be reported that the risk of serious adverse events is 0.5%, as is documented on the drug label. The Ethics and Public Policy Center recently analyzed insurance claims data to assess the veracity of this number. Using the same FDA established criteria regarding serious adverse reactions, it looked at raw data from actual insurance claims. **This new study demonstrated that the risk of serious adverse reactions is at least 22 times higher than the rate on the drug label.** They looked at data related to 865,727 mifepristone abortions and **found the rate to actually be 10.93%.** This is a shocking discovery and one most women will not be made aware of before they move forward with plans to take the abortion pill. We are hoping that the FDA will make the necessary changes to better protect women.

1 HALL, JAMIE. 2025. "THE ABORTION PILL HARMS WOMEN: INSURANCE DATA REVEALS ONE IN TEN PATIENTS EXPERIENCES A SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENT." [HTTPS://EPCC.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2025/04/25-04-THE-ABORTION-PILL-HARMS-WOMEN.PDF](https://epcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/25-04-THE-ABORTION-PILL-HARMS-WOMEN.PDF).

Meet the First Choice Team

staff & volunteer spotlight!



Matt Barrett

BOARD MEMBER

Matt Barrett has served on the Center's board for almost 6 years. Matt attended a First Choice banquet and the Lord opened his eyes to see the life affirming work accomplished at the Center. A couple of years later, he found himself serving on the board. Matt sees the role of the board as a "group of individuals who work together to help guide in a strategic direction." This is an immensely important role which the Lord uses to help us best meet the needs of our clients. Matt's advice to anyone considering serving on the board is to "first pray and ask the Lord for guidance." If you feel it is the right thing to do, "then go all in." Matt sums up his time on the board like this, "It has been such a blessing learning about First Choice and how they are impacting our community."

Matt is married to Tara and they have two daughters (Amelia and Audrey). He is a member at Fountain Church and is employed at Axis Milling here in LaGrange.

Mindy Sillyman

CLIENT ADVOCATE

Mindy serves as a Client Advocate and states that she is "simply there to meet and help with whatever needs and fears they may have and try to leave them with hope and encouragement and the reminder that they have a loving Savior who sees them." Mindy values the team she works with at the Center and states, "They have become friends in the trenches." Mindy would encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering at the Center to come in and meet with the First Choice staff and to know that the Center offers "excellent training and resources to prepare you."

Mindy has volunteered at the Center for 2 years. She has been married to her husband, Bryce, for 28 years and considers him to be her "greatest gift on this earth." They have one daughter and three sons and attend First Baptist Church. They have lived in LaGrange for 4 years and are "enjoying this season of life as we move into the empty nest awesomeness." She teaches fitness classes, hosts a podcast, and enjoys walking on the Thread.



FIRST CHOICE WOMEN'S CENTER PROVIDES COMPASSION, HOPE AND HELP TO WOMEN IN
OUR COMMUNITY FACING UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES.

CLIENT ADVOCATES TYPICALLY SERVE ONCE A WEEK, WHERE THEY MEET WITH CLIENTS FOR PREGNANCY TEST
APPOINTMENTS, AS WELL AS TEACH OUR EARN WHILE YOU LEARN PARENTING CLASSES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CLIENT ADVOCATE, CONTACT LISA ELLEN AT 706-884-3833.

mark your calendars!

New Volunteer Training

SEPTEMBER 10-12

First Choice Women's Center provides compassion, hope and help to women in our community facing unplanned pregnancies. Client Advocates typically serve once a week, where they meet with clients for pregnancy test appointments, as well as teach our Earn While You Learn parenting classes.

If you are interested in becoming a Client Advocate, contact Lisa Ellen at 706-884-3833.

First Choice is in great need of a Spanish-speaking volunteer! If you or someone you know would be a great fit, please let them know so they can attend our upcoming training.

Current Needs

GENDER-NEUTRAL RECEIVING BLANKETS

After a client has received care and counseling, we have the pleasure of giving them a small gift bag of resources. We love to include a blanket as a small token of congratulations for this precious life they carry. Any gender-neutral blankets, new or handmade, are greatly appreciated!

BABY WIPES

The First Choice Baby Boutique is stocked to allow Earn While You Learn clients to use their Baby Bucks in exchange for needs. Wipes are always a high need for expecting mothers, and your donations serve our clients beyond their time with us.

Shop our Amazon Wishlist:



Thank you for providing needs for our hardworking clients!

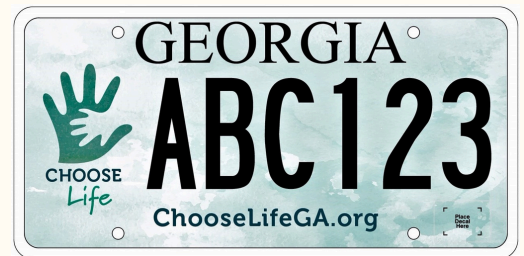


How You Can Offer Support

Thank you!

REP A CHOOSE LIFE PLATE

Take a quiet stand for life everywhere you drive, while also helping fund pregnancy centers! Get your Choose Life license plates. www.ChooseLifeGA.org



PURCHASE COFFEE WITH A PURPOSE

Have you heard about our partnership with Seven Weeks Coffee? First Choice will receive 10% of all coffee sales when you purchase with our QR code. Scan the code to head to the website and order to support us as we work together to protect life!

"Our mission is to promote Godly values, provide excellent coffee, and protect every beating heart."



SCAN ME

CONSIDER BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

If you are a member of a church, sunday school class, Bible study group, etc. that is interested in an easy way to support First Choice, consider the Baby Bottle Boomerang. We provide the bottles, you fill them with change, and then you send them right back!



CLIENT REVIEWS:

When asked what they liked best about their experience at First Choice, they stated:

“

- The staff was very kind and made me feel better.
- How welcoming they are.
- Everyone is so kind and listens.
- How caring and informative they were.

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