



## **Planned Parenthood of Indiana Values:**

- An individual's fundamental right to make personal decisions about her/his reproductive health care.
- Education programs that promote responsible and informed choices regarding personal sexuality and family planning.
- Complete, confidential, accessible information, services and facilities for all.
- Dedicated trustees who provide vision and community resources that enhance the success of our staff and volunteers.
- Diversity as an asset that enables the highest level of client service.
- A community of concerned supporters who help Planned Parenthood fulfill its mission.
- A positive relationship with Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

### **Program Policies:**

#### **Clients' Rights**

Planned Parenthood believes that all clients have the right to obtain high quality reproductive health care services, which respect personal privacy and individual dignity, at a cost commensurate with their ability to pay. Clients shall receive accurate information about their health care and medical treatment and an explanation of service fees. Written records of any services delivered to clients may not be released except under subpoena or the written consent of the client.

#### **Reproductive Freedom**

The policy of Planned Parenthood is to ensure all individuals the freedom to make and implement reproductive decisions. Individuals should have access to information and services related to sexuality, reproduction, methods of contraception, and fertility management. Such access should not be limited or denied to low-income, adolescent, or minority populations. Planned Parenthood asserts that the decision to remain childless is valid personal choice for sexually active people. Planned Parenthood recognizes the relationship between reproductive freedom and social, economic, and political rights for women and will cooperate with other organizations and agencies to achieve such rights.

#### **Censorship and First Amendment Rights**

Planned Parenthood will seek to protect each individual's right of access to the facts about reproductive health and human sexuality. We oppose censorship and banning of materials from educational institutions, libraries, or programs receiving public funds. Planned Parenthood works with other groups to preserve free speech and a free press, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. We oppose any efforts to restrict or unduly influence, as a condition of governmental funding, the legal use of funds.

### **Sexual Orientation**

Planned Parenthood stands for equality and acceptance for all people. To this end, we unequivocally uphold the right of each individual to live and work in an environment that is free of harassment based on sexual orientation. The agency will act decisively to challenge restrictions and biases related to one's sexual orientation, or perceived orientation, which impinges upon individual freedom and dignity.

### **Sexuality Education**

Planned Parenthood's professional training and patient and community education programs seek to increase understanding of sexuality as an integral and positive aspect of human development. We provide resources and training for parents, thus enabling them to be successful primary sexuality educators.

Planned Parenthood's sexuality education programs must emphasize assisting the client to identify her/his personal values related to sexuality, and to make informed choices consistent with those values. We affirm the importance of educating clients about the effectiveness of abstinence from sexual intercourse in avoiding both pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. All sexuality education provided by Planned Parenthood is based on the values of accurate information, responsibility, self-control, respect of self and others, individuality and diversity, and postponing sexual intercourse and parenthood until adulthood.

### **Adolescent Services**

The policy of Planned Parenthood is to ensure that adolescents have access to information about human sexuality and access to reproductive health care services. Adolescents are encouraged to involve their parents and/or other responsible and concerned adults in their reproductive decision-making. We oppose any limitation or restriction on adolescents' access to confidential reproductive health services, including contraception and abortion. We support a range of activities designed to reduce adolescent pregnancy and child-bearing, such as expanded sexuality education, increased service accessibility, enhanced public awareness, behavioral research, and the development of contraceptive methods specially suited to adolescents.

### **Pregnancy Counseling**

The policy of Planned Parenthood is to ensure women the right to counseling on available pregnancy alternatives. Counseling shall include information about and referral for medically supervised pregnancy continuation and birth, adoption, and pregnancy termination. Such counseling shall be performed in a manner objective and free of coercion to assure informed decision-making. Planned Parenthood has the responsibility to provide access to high quality confidential pregnancy related services through the affiliate's own medical facilities or through referral to other competent service providers.



### **Voluntary Sterilization**

Planned Parenthood supports voluntary sterilization as a medically accepted means of permanent contraception. Voluntary sterilization should be available to any mature individual who is fully informed and counseled regarding the nature, consequences, risks, benefits, and alternatives of the procedure.

Planned Parenthood believes that all providers of sterilization services must exercise special diligence in assuring that the sterilization of mentally disabled, or socially or economically disadvantaged individuals is voluntary. Funds should be made available to subsidize the cost of voluntary sterilization services for those who choose the procedure but cannot afford it.

### **Abortion**

The policy of Planned Parenthood is to ensure women the right to seek and obtain medically safe, legal abortions under dignified conditions and at a reasonable cost. Abortion services must include information on the nature, consequences, and relative risks of surgical and medical abortion procedures, including the use of chemical abortifacients such as RU 486. No one should be denied abortion services because of age, economic, or social circumstances. Funds should be made available to subsidize the cost of abortion services for those who choose abortion but cannot afford it. Planned Parenthood is also committed to promoting legal access to newer medical abortion methods such as treatment with RU 486.

### **HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections**

The policy of Planned Parenthood is to routinely educate all clients about sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDS. We will assist clients in assessing their risk of STIs, assist clients in deciding whether or when to be tested, and provide counseling, referral and/or treatment services.

### **Strengthening Families**

Planned Parenthood is committed to supporting strong relationships existing within a variety of family structures, by offering emotional support, counseling, and education programs for all family members. We will cooperate with other groups and agencies to help support children and build strong families.

### **International Family Planning**

Planned Parenthood's policy is to support international programs that are designed to increase access to safe and effective means of voluntary fertility regulation, and to advocate and assist in the expansion of voluntary family planning services throughout the world.

### **Population**

The policy of Planned Parenthood is to advance understanding of the relationship between population growth and the quality of human life. We are committed to providing education in the communities it serves, enabling people to understand the impact of world population growth on the economic, political, social, and physical environment.

### **Insurance Coverage**

The policy of Planned Parenthood is to educate the public, the insurance industry and state lawmakers about the importance of access to reproductive health care. Planned Parenthood believes that public, private and self-insurers have an obligation to include contraception, sterilization, abortion, infertility treatment, and STI testing and treatment in their covered services.