

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREGNANCY QUESTIONNAIRE

If you are a woman who has experienced a pregnancy resulting from sexual assault or abuse, we are interested in hearing your story. Whether you had an abortion or miscarriage, placed the child for adoption, or raised him or her, your thoughts, feelings and insights are important and may be able to help other women and girls in similar situations.

You can use these questions as a guide in writing out your story. You can answer the questions one by one, or simply use it to as a guide to help you cover all these issues as you write out your story.

We collect these stories to give women a voice and to learn more about what they have experienced. If you would like to allow us to reprint your story (with or without your name), or would like to share your story with legislators if the opportunity arises, please include a way for us to contact you and indicate under what circumstances you are willing to let us use your story. *Please know that we will contact you if this happens and that we will not share your name or contact information with anyone without your permission.*

Send your story/questionnaire to: Elliot Institute, PO Box 7348, Springfield, IL 62791 or elliottinstitute@gmail.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email and/or phone: _____

My name must be kept confidential:

YES NO FOR NOW, I may change my mind.

My responses and testimony may be reprinted, in full, or in part:

With my name. Without my name. Please contact me and I will let you know.

In the event that we have an opportunity to testify before legislators:

I am available, without restriction.

I am available, but only if I can testify anonymously.

I am not available.

Contact me, and I will think about it.

MY STORY

1. What was your life like prior to the sexual assault or abuse? What were your general activities, interests, and personality like? What was your family life like? If you were an adult, were you married or in a relationship? Did you have children?
2. How did the sexual assault or abuse occur?
3. What were your feelings about the assault/abuse?
4. Did you seek medical attention after the assault/abuse? What kind of treatment did you receive? Did you report the assault to the police? What was their response, and how were you treated?
5. Did you contact any sexual assault support groups? Did they help you? What kind of advice or support did you receive?
6. Did your family or others know about the assault/abuse? What did they do or say? What was your sense of how they felt about this?
7. How did their feelings affect you? Did they help you in recovering from the attack or add to your problems?
8. How did you find out that you were pregnant? What were your immediate feelings about the pregnancy? What were your feelings about the baby?
9. What were the reactions of your family and others to your pregnancy? How did they treat you?
10. How did your feelings about the pregnancy and the assault or abuse itself change as the pregnancy progressed?
11. Were you offered options or given advice as to whether or not to continue the pregnancy? Did you feel under pressure to have an abortion, give the baby up for adoption, or to keep the baby? If so, by who?
12. How was the decision to deal with the pregnancy made? Was it your decision alone? Did you have the support you needed?
13. If you carried the child to term, how did your feelings change up until the birth? What was the hardest to deal with? What was the best?
14. If you had the baby, did it help you to deal with the negative feelings resulting from the assault or abuse? Did it improve your life in any way? Did it have any negative effects on your life?
16. If you raised the child, did you tell your child about the circumstances of his or her conception? If so, how and at what age did you tell your child? Do you wish you would have done anything

different? What would you advise for parents who are facing this decision about how and when to tell their child?

15. If you had the baby, did you consider abortion? Why or why not? What made you decide to carry the baby to term?
17. If you had an abortion, how did you come to that decision? What were your feelings about abortion prior to becoming pregnant? What were your feelings like before and after the procedure?
18. If you had an abortion, did it help you to deal with the negative feelings resulting from the rape or incest? Did it improve your life in any way? What were your feelings about the abortion in the years that followed? Did it have any negative effects on your life?
19. If you placed the baby up adoption, how did you come to that decision? What were your feelings about it before and after the process? What were your feelings in the years that followed?
20. If you placed baby up adoption, did it help you to deal with the negative feelings resulting from the rape or incest? Did it improve your life in any way? Did it have any negative effects on your life?
21. What, in your opinion, should be done to help women who are pregnant as a result of sexual assault? Should women be encouraged or discouraged to a) get an abortion, b) release the baby for adoption, or c) raise the baby? Or what should she be advised about any or all of these options?
22. Do you believe that abortion is a helpful way to deal with a pregnancy resulting from sexual assault? Do you believe abortion is a way for others to ignore the victim and her needs?
23. How long did the negative feelings related to the abuse or assault last? Are there still ways that it affects you today? If so, what do you think might help you at this point in your life?
25. Do you feel women with pregnancies resulting from sexual assault or abuse are discriminated against? How?
26. Do you feel that children who are conceived during sexual assault or abuse discriminated against? How?
27. Given your own experiences, how would you counsel a woman who was pregnant as the result of rape or incest? Would you advise other women to make the same decision that you did (or that was made for you)?

Thank you very much for sharing your story. We recognize that you may have painful memories associated with your story, and it is not easy to recount them. We are very grateful for your courage and willingness to share this part of your lives with others.