

## **The Last Abortion**

*This handout is used with permission from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice ([www.rcrc.org](http://www.rcrc.org)).*

Imagine that the Supreme Court has just issued a decision that would make abortions illegal in the United States. You work at a local health clinic that provides abortions. You and your staff have to try to come to a consensus about which three patients will be able to have abortions at your clinic before the decision becomes law.

Rank your choices individually, and then meet as a group to decide.

- A 14-year old teenager who was sexually abused by a friend of the family. The abuse resulted in her pregnancy.
- A 39-year old single mother of five who is dependent on governmental programs to help provide for her family. She is only able to work outside the home part-time.
- A 36-year old woman who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and requires immediate chemotherapy in order to have a good chance of surviving the cancer.
- A 25-year old married woman who does not yet feel prepared to be a mother.
- A 23-year old woman who was brutally raped by her ex-boyfriend. She had a restraining order issue against him.
- A 30-year old woman whose prenatal tests show gross fetal anomalies, meaning severe birth defects.
- A 20-year old woman who had sexual intercourse with her boyfriend for the first time. The couple decided not to use a condom.
- A 27-year old woman whose pregnancy is the result of an extramarital affair. Her husband cannot have children and does not know she has been cheating on him.
- A 22-year old woman who was recently diagnosed with HIV. There is a chance that the baby will be born HIV+ unless she can get AZT (the medicine that will help prevent the spread of HIV to her baby).
- An 18-year old woman who is planning to go to college on a full academic scholarship. The condom that she and her boyfriend were using broke. She will lose her scholarship if she misses a semester at school.
- A 46-year old woman who thought she was going through menopause because she had not gotten her period in several months. Her children are all grown, and she is about to become a grandmother.
- A 25-year old woman with moderate developmental disabilities who lives in a group home. Her long-term boyfriend lives there as well, although the group home cannot provide housing for infants.