



## Statement of Peace

40 Days for Life is an effective and dynamic outreach in 36 countries and 636 cities. As a result of the peaceful and respectful outreach and prayer of half a million participants, more than 11,796 women have reported choosing life, 133 workers have quit, and 73 abortion facilities have closed.

This is a very effective ministry. In order to ensure that we are being the peaceful representatives for life we are called to be, all participants are required to read and sign a statement of peace. If you choose not to read and sign this document, you are not considered a participant in 40 Days for Life.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, testify to the following:

Print Name

- I recognize that I am acting as a representative of 40 Days for Life and the pro-life movement as a whole. As such, I will be an example of peace, respect, and calm.
- I will show compassion and reflect Christ's love to all abortion facility employees, volunteers, and clients. I understand that my primary concern is to be peaceful, compassionate, and prayerful, leaving all of the results to God.
- I recognize that pushing the limits of the rules only serves to misrepresent the pro-life movement as disrespectful and arrogant, and will not do so.
- I understand that acting or speaking in a disrespectful manner to employees or clients of the abortion center immediately and completely disassociates me from the 40 Days for Life campaign.
- I am in no way associated with any abortion facility or its affiliates by way of employment, informant, volunteer, client, or otherwise.
- I recognize that acting or speaking in a violent, harmful, or threatening manner while participating in 40 Days for Life immediately disassociates me from the 40 Days for Life campaign, and that the proper authorities will be notified.

While in front of the vigil site:

- I will keep moving at all times and will be careful to yield to cars and pedestrians entering the parking lots. I will not obstruct the driveways, sidewalk or doorways. I will not set up chairs or sit on the private or public property.
- I will not interfere with operations at adjoining businesses/offices, including pro-life pregnancy resource centers. I will not pace/pray in front of it or other buildings, as this gives the impression to passersby that they are part of the abortion industry, and interferes with their business/ministry.
- I will not physically touch anyone, even in a friendly manner.
- I will not trespass on the private property of the abortion facility, including the parking lots.
- I will closely attend to any children I bring to the prayer vigil.
- I will not shout at anyone. If a person asks me to stop speaking to them I will respect their wishes (failure to do so can constitute harassment).
- I will not vandalize private or public property. I will not touch the building, litter, or throw anything into abortion facility garbage cans/dumpsters.
- I will cooperate with local city authorities if they are called to the facility.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sidewalk Ministry Do's and Don'ts

### Don'ts

- Don't trespass
  - Do not cross the edge of the sidewalk on to the property line, including the parking lot.
  - Many people like to push this rule to its limit. Don't. It's that simple. Don't cross the line. Not even for a moment, not even with the tip of your shoe or your arm.
  - Do not throw anything onto the property, or into their dumpsters.
  - Do not vandalize anything, or touch private property.
- Don't act in a violent or harmful manner. It is completely counterproductive and can lead to legal action.
  - Don't be hostile or disrespectful. Do not shout at anyone.
  - Never threaten or verbally abuse anyone.
- Keep moving at all times.
  - You may not set a chair even on the public side of the property. That constitutes loitering.
  - If you need a break you must take it elsewhere, such as your car.
  - Don't block the sidewalks or driveway.
- Don't touch anyone, even in a friendly manner.
- Only one sidewalk counselor at a time should try to get a woman/worker's attention.
  - Similarly, don't join a conversation that a sidewalk counselor is having, unless you're invited to. (An exception to this is if you see someone having a conversation which breaks some of the norms outlined above or below.)
- Don't be alone. Always have another person with you. You can act as a witness to each other's actions should the facility call the authorities.
  - It is best to have a mix of men and women. In particular – don't have groups purely comprised of men.

### Words you should never say/hear while sidewalk ministering:

- hell, murder, hate, kill, die, etc.
- If someone else begins using such language, you can (and probably should) speak to them about the fact that they are being counterproductive.

### Do's

- Pray before you ever go out on the sidewalk.
- Be peaceful. Be compassionate.
  - The workers, women, and passersby are expecting you to be a somewhat arrogant and judgmental person. You have a golden opportunity to show compassion instead.
- Cooperate with authorities if they are brought into a situation. However always have a second person with you to act as witness to any interactions.
- Be sure to closely attend children.
- Avoid laughter and chatty conversations. This does not mean that you cannot smile or convey joyfulness. But we need to remember that this is a serious place. No need to give the impression to passersby that you don't recognize that.
- If there is a Crisis Pregnancy Center (e.g. Woman's New Life) do not pace in front, as this discourages clients from coming, and can give the impression to others that they are an abortion center.

Note: Some like to push these boundaries, as though that's somehow a small victory. However:

- This confirms preconceived notions that pro-lifers are arrogant and disrespectful.
- It closes off workers and women from wanting to talk to other pro-lifers.
- In other places, disregard for the law has led to harsher laws, such as "bubble zones" preventing pro-lifers from coming in a certain radius of the abortion facility. If you see people breaking rules you can (and probably should) point out that this is counterproductive, and paints pro-lifers as petty.

### Words you should hear (or say if you've been trained in sidewalk counseling):

- Hi! Can I talk to you for a minute?
- There is support available for you. Can I talk to you about it?
- You're not alone. We would love to help you.
- Can I give you some information?
- Can I talk to you about other options?

Keep in mind that most people are not wanting to know if the unborn is human. They're wanting to know if you are. They have many preconceived notions of who you are and why you are there. Many before you have fed into these misconceptions. So first and foremost, be an example of respect & compassion. That speaks louder than any words.