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Abortion and the Family

For most women, an unexpected wave of emotions follows an abortion. What seemed to be a practical choice in response to an unplanned pregnancy can result in overwhelming shame, guilt, anger, and bodily injury. Studies have found that women who ended their first pregnancy by abortion are five times more likely to report substance abuse than women who carried to term. The suicide rate after an abortion is three times the general suicide rate and six times that associated with birth (Focus on the Family).

The aftermath of abortion, however, goes far beyond its effect on the baby and mother. Studies show that abortion leaves families heartbroken. Fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings feel the impact (RTL.org).

Parents may notice a change in their daughter's personality. This is particularly true when the child returns home after an undisclosed abortion (Ramah's Voice: Abortion Recovery Blog). When the truth becomes apparent, parents can experience prolonged and unimaginable grief at the preventable loss of their grandchild and wonder if they could have intervened and saved the child from an abortion (Changed: Making Sense of Your Own or a Loved One's Abortion Experience).

Siblings too experience the pain of abortion. Although not knowing the aborted brother or sister, a sibling may feel a family member is missing. Many times the parent is unaware that her other children know and are reluctant to inquire or question their mother. (Ramah's Voice: Abortion Recovery Blog). We might expect questions to include: "Am I the oldest? Would this have been my name? Would I have even been born, if the other had survived? Why am I alive and my brother or sister is not?" These unresolved questions attract many complex emotions, fears, and loneliness.

As the list of abortion victims grows, recent legislation in New York, with similar proposals in Virginia and Vermont, have drastically expanded access to late-term abortion further denying fundamental human rights to the unborn with expected devastating family consequences. Let your voices be heard!