

One Man's Story

I was preparing to graduate from high school. I was like any other senior; full of expectations and looking forward to a great summer. Then my girlfriend told me she was pregnant. When I first learned of the pregnancy, I actually felt excited about being a dad. But after talking with her father we decided —

We had other things to do and worry about. After all, we were too young to be parents.

abortion was the best course to take. We had other things to do and worry about. After all, we were too young to be parents. After the abortion I felt a sense of relief, but the relief soon turned to disappointment and loss; and finally to a feeling of deep anger towards myself, my girlfriend, and everyone else involved in the abortion decision.

The pain of losing my fatherhood hit me when my next child was born. I lost it bad. My anger turned to rage and I tore up my apartment. Now, I've found that I wasn't the only man who felt sad and angry after an abortion. I have healing, peace and forgiveness and I've stopped beating myself up. I still have hard days but I can rely upon the tools from the grief work I've done. The organizations represented in the M.A.N network can help you too. Go to:

<http://www.lifeissues.org/men/MAN/index.html>

Membership

A Member of the Men and Abortion Network is a person or organization that has at least 3 years experience on a national or international level of promoting healing and creating awareness in regard to the post-abortive male.

Affiliates

An "affiliate" of the Men and Abortion Network (MAN) refers to an individual or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to and concern for post-abortion men. Activities indicative of such commitment may include any of the following: developing abortion-recovery programs for men, providing counseling to them, engaging in research on this population, collecting legal testimonies from post-abortion men, and/or raising awareness of the potential effects of abortion on men through speaking, teaching, or writing.

How to become a Member or an Affiliate?

To apply for Network Membership or Affiliate status simply email your credentials to info@lifeissues.org. Our committee for affiliation will review and inform you of the outcome within 30 days.



Men and Abortion Network

Reclaiming Fatherhood

<http://www.lifeissues.org/men/MAN/index.html>

OUR MISSION:

To promote emotional healing for men who have lost a child to abortion, and to create awareness among the counseling community, pro-life movement and society as a whole regarding the impact on millions of these hurting fathers.

What is Fatherhood Lost?

When an abortion occurs, a man has lost his fatherhood. He has lost his child and he has been rejected. In America we lack the social permission to allow ourselves to grieve the loss of our children by abortion. However, as we grieve, healing can occur through forgiveness and restoration. We can rebuild a right relationship with God and with others who were involved.

Millions of men have lost children by an abortion. This loss can remain a hidden experience along with shame and guilt. The connection between the pain and other behavior is often discounted because abortion is thought to be just a woman's issue.

Who are these hurting men?

Abortion affects the father of the lost baby, grandfathers, siblings and other relatives as well. Some fathers marry post-aborted mothers. They can also be affected by their wife's pain, even if they were not the child's dad. Other men or friends of the father, are also affected. Many men who connect the pain of the abortion with their problems and with adverse changes in their behavior are beginning to find help through the organizations represented in the M.A.N network. They are discovering they do not need to be fugitives anymore. God promised to bring comfort to those who have pain and grief.

Why Do Fathers Need Healing?

It is always healthy for a father who has been affected by an abortion experience to grieve the loss of his child and his fatherhood. Finding closure and healing from the wounds are frequently unidentified as they relate to the abortion, as many think it's just a woman's issue.

As many as 50,000,000 abortions have taken place in America since January 22, 1973, when the Supreme Court issued the ruling that mothers could have an abortion on demand.

Abortion has affected millions of fathers and mothers in various ways. It is our hope to bring reconciliation to them and their families. The M.A.N network wants to see them have their lives restored by the help available!

As men are reconciled from the pain and harm of abortion, they are free to be the great men that society now needs for male leadership and champions for their children and families.

Identifying where the pain is in your life!

(Symptoms may not be all-inclusive)

- o Anger, rage and often abusive behavior
- o Poor bonding with children
- o Sleeplessness, nightmares, bad dreams
- o Avoidance behaviors/addictions
- o Sexual dysfunctions
- o Guilt/shame and extreme anger
- o Unable to relax/panic attacks
- o Loneliness or numbness/sense of loss
- o Depression/hollow feelings/suicidal.
- o Rejection, inordinate fears, and risk taking
- o Eating disorders or impulsive behavior
- o Strong dislike for women or children
- o Abandonment and irresponsible actions

Why Abortion Hurts Fathers

o Abortion takes the life of a developing baby in the womb of its mother. The abortion of a child ends the process of pro-creation. It destroys the seed of the man and woman, thereby severing their lineage. A man's Fatherhood is lost and he often loses the relationship with the child's mother as well.

o Abortion denies a father's instinct for commitment, protection, and provision. His confidence is shaken!

o Abortion is a conscious decision that significantly alters our value for life; the life created by God and from within ourselves. It is a statement of severe rejection. While viewed as a solution to a "problem pregnancy", the costs are high, the immediate cost being our failure to become a dad. Men may also feel inferior to their own fathers because of an abortion and the shame of not standing up for the child in his or her hour of greatest need.

o The guilt and fear from an abortion can erode a father's ability to trust God, women, and authority.

o Abortion can result in confusion, anger, anxiety, and errors in judgment, effecting relationships with women, children, employers, and others. It may diminish one's capacity as a man-father, husband, friend, and employee.

o Abortion can cause men to fear that he may never be accepted or forgiven or successful in his life's efforts. He may lack the confidence he needs to perform as a man and a father down the road as well.

Some have called this kind of loss a fugitive like behavior... Abortion de-fathers a man. All that he is and can offer to reproduce is lost, but the memories go on.