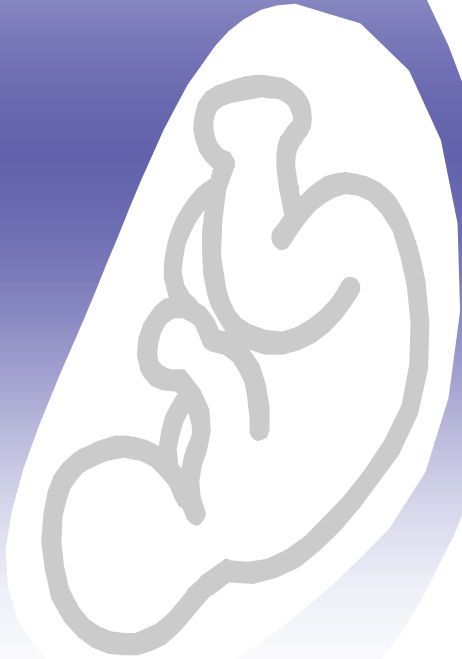


INFORMATION ON

*Fetal
Development,
Abortion
And Adoption*



WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES



This publication was produced in compliance with West Virginia Code 16-21-1, et. Seq., known as the Women's Right to Know Act, which requires the medical practitioner performing abortions to inform the female of physical and emotional risks of abortion procedures and risks of carrying a pregnancy to term.

This booklet and service directory is available free of charge upon request by calling the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health at 1-800-642-8522 or online at www.wvdhhr.org.

Fetal Development

A female's egg is fertilized by a male's sperm in the fallopian tube. After fertilization, the egg divides and multiplies to form the embryo. During the next few days, the embryo moves through the fallopian tube to the lining of the uterus. There it implants and starts to grow.

During pregnancy, the lining of the female's uterus thickens and its blood vessels enlarge to nourish the fetus. As pregnancy progresses, the uterus expands to make room for the growing embryo/fetus. The following pictures and drawings illustrate fetal development from 8 to 40 weeks.

8 WEEKS

1 1/2 inches — 1/2 ounce

The beginnings of all key body parts are present, although they are not completely positioned in their final locations.

Structures that will form eyes, ears, arms and legs are identifiable.

Muscles and skeleton are developing and the nervous system becomes more responsive.

The heart has four chambers and began pumping blood four weeks ago.