



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

QUALIFYING A PREGNANCY CARE CENTER IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL DIOCESE

To determine if a pregnancy care center (PCC) meets the practical, moral and faith guidelines necessary for eligibility for funds through the Ultrasound Initiative, the Knights of Columbus state or local council must first receive the endorsement of the diocesan culture of life director in the diocese in which the PCC is located. For U.S. councils, go to www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/diocesan-pro-life-offices.cfm to find the diocesan culture of life director. Canadian councils should contact their local diocesan chancery office.

The diocesan culture of life director should be asked to complete and sign the Ultrasound Initiative Diocesan Evaluation form (#9884) indicating that the PCC in question meets each of the guidelines below. If the PCC in question has a Statement of Faith that staff, volunteers, or clients are asked to sign or assent to, a copy should be provided to the diocesan culture of life director. If the diocese does not currently have a diocesan culture of life director, the council should contact the bishop's office to find out who he has designated to make such evaluations. If the culture of life director, or other diocesan official, does not have sufficient experience or knowledge to make a judgment concerning the capabilities, policies and practices of a particular PCC, s/he may so indicate on the form.

The diocesan official's endorsement should be based on the diocese's experience and knowledge of the PCC, specifically:

- 1 – That the PCC has the staffing, finances and other resources to justify and support the purchase and continued operation of an ultrasound machine/mobile unit. This judgment should include the opinion that the PCC's location, client load, and hours of operation justify this major expenditure and the ongoing costs and staffing commitments.
- 2 – That the PCC's practices, policies and history regarding abortion, abortifacients, birth control and other associated practices appear to be consistent with Catholic moral and ethical principles.
- 3 – That experience shows the PCC is welcoming of Catholics as employees, volunteers and clients and is respectful of the beliefs and faith practices of those Catholics. The PCC should have no official policies, practices, or office climate that discriminates against Catholics or that would encourage Catholic employees, volunteers or clients to leave their Catholic faith.
- 4 – That any Statement of Faith (that employees, volunteers or clients are asked to sign or assent to in their participation or presence at the PCC) be evaluated in accord with policies of the diocesan culture of life office and the bishop.

The completed Diocesan Evaluation form should be submitted to: **Culture of Life Office, Fraternal Mission, Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326.**

The council should not begin fund-raising activities to purchase an ultrasound machine/mobile unit until receiving notice from the Supreme Council office that it may proceed.