**Termination Of Pregnancy Act Chapter 15;10**

The Termination of Pregnancy Act governs the lawful termination of pregnancy in Zimbabwe. The Act provides only three grounds under which pregnancy can be lawfully terminated in Zimbabwe. Pregnancies can only be terminated by a registered medical practitioner authorised by a court order.

First if the pregnancy endangers the life of the woman and could result in permanent impairment to her physical health it can be terminated. In such instance the pregnancy can be lawfully terminated under certification of two registered medical practitioners who must certify that the termination is necessary and safe.

Secondly, abortion may be authorised when there is a risk that the child to be born will suffer from a physical or mental defect which are a serious risk to them. The physical or mental defect must be of such a nature that the child to be born will permanently and seriously be handicapped. This means that where the mental defect is likely to be temporary or deemed minor the abortion will not be authorised. The medical superintendent should not authorise abortion unless satisfied that two medical practitioners have examined the pregnant woman and certified the termination.

The third ground upon which pregnancy can be lawfully terminated is where there is a reasonable possibility that the pregnancy was conceived as a result of unlawful intercourse. Unlawful intercourse is described as “rape, other than rape within a marriage, and sexual intercourse within a prohibited degree of relationship ie incest.

No person is allowed to assist in the termination of pregnancy without legal authorisation. No medical practitioner, nurse or any person employed in a hospital is allowed to assist with unauthorised termination of pregnancy.

No person is allowed to receive or offer extra fees in connection with the termination of a pregnancy other than the prescribed fees paid to the institution..