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## For Your Information ...

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## ***For Your Information . . .***

The following guidelines are offered to Catholic medical and paramedical personnel who may be affected by the recently enacted change in the abortion law of the State of New York:

1. This law, which takes effect July 1, 1970, does not impose any obligation on anyone to perform an abortifacient act.
2. This change in the law of the State of New York does not change the immorality of abortifacient acts. Direct killing of the innocent, whether born or unborn, is against the law of God.
3. The Code of Canon Law (Canon 2350) states that those who procure an abortion, not excepting the mother, incur, if the effect is produced, an excommunication.
4. No Catholic medical or paramedical personnel should participate in any capacity in an abortifacient act. Caring for a patient before or after is not regarded as participating in the abortifacient act.
5. No Catholic medical or paramedical personnel should advise a person to seek an abortifacient procedure.
6. In a post-abortifacient emergency situation, any morally acceptable necessary life-saving procedure is allowed.
7. Since medical and paramedical personnel are not required either by the law or by the hospital code to act against their conscientious convictions, staff doctors, nurses and others who have moral objections to abortifacient acts should be excused by the hospital authorities from participating in such procedures. No penalty should be imposed on anyone for following his moral convictions with respect to the immorality of abortifacient acts.
8. Medical and paramedical personnel who object to participation in abortifacient acts should, in fairness to the hospital, make this fact known to the hospital administration.
9. No Catholic medical or paramedical personnel should participate in any capacity in the use of an aborted fetus for immoral experimentation. The usual rules for Baptism apply.
10. If an abortifacient act is productive of a live infant, objective morality requires that every attempt must be made to maintain the infant's life.

Issued by Most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg  
Bishop of Rockville Centre  
June 18, 1970