



Abortion Victim Photography Protocol

Checklist of What You Need:

- AVP Outreach signs: at least 5 sets of signs, including a pregnancy helpline sign.
- At least 200 Created Equal brochures
- Project Rosie dropcards (or Crisis Pregnancy Support Resources)
- A video camera (for security purposes - PLM can provide)
- A backpack (to transporting brochures, resources, and camera to the activism location)
- **A minimum of 4 volunteers at all times** (1 of the 4 assigned the role of primary camera)
- Ability to transport supplies to the activism location

Prior to Outreach:

- Read through this protocol
- The team leader should assign the following roles:
 - **Outreach Leader (& Primary Camera) - Typically Protect Life Michigan Staff**
 - *This person is responsible for ensuring the safety of all volunteers by staying alert, keeping all volunteers in eye-sight, and videoing as many members as possible on the team's security camera. Should an incident take place, this person is responsible for filming the incident in its entirety, in addition to alerting the team leader of any suspicious behavior displayed by passersby.*
 - **Secondary Camera (student)**
 - *In the event that an incident takes place involving the primary camera, this person should be ready to step in and film the incident on an alternative device (such as a cell phone). The team leader should clarify that the role of "secondary camera" also applies to all people present at AVP Outreach, with the exception of the person assigned to "primary camera".*
 - **Primary Police (student)**
 - *In the event that an incident occurs, or by direction from the team leader, this person is responsible for calling 9-1-1 and asking for police assistance. This person should be able to clearly identify the location of the AVP Outreach.*
 - **Secondary Police (student)**
 - *In the event that an incident occurs involving the "primary police" volunteer, this person is responsible for calling 9-1-1 and asking for police assistance. This person should be able to clearly identify the location of the AVP Outreach.*
- From the moment your group arrives and begins to unload supplies to carry them to the AVP Outreach location, the primary camera should be running.
- The team leader may choose to open in prayer or with announcements, this should be discreetly done at the AVP Outreach location, or preferably in an alternate meeting location

- The team leader should make sure all volunteers are trained and prepared, ensuring that all volunteers understand they are not to insult, swear, or raise their voice at anyone they encounter during AVP Outreach.
- The team leader should arrange volunteers at the AVP Outreach intersection in order to maximize visibility. This includes arranging the AVP Outreach signs so that there is a good variety of images at the intersection and that there are at least 2 volunteers on any given corner of the intersection

During AVP Outreach:

- Any and all concerns from police officers, city workers, business owners, media etc. should be directed to the team leader and their interaction filmed by the primary camera
- Volunteers should:
 - Refrain from wearing sunglasses
 - Refrain from texting or using their phones as much as possible
 - Refrain from interrupting other conversations – unless asked to join in or give a response
 - Refrain from laughing amongst each other or making jokes while holding AVP Outreach signs
 - Be aware of their appearance and body language – aim to look pleasant and professional; do not slouch or lean on the AVP Outreach sign
 - Never wander away or leave the AVP Outreach location alone without alerting the team leader
 - Alert the team leader if the weather is causing difficulty in holding the AVP Outreach signs
 - Alert the team leader and primary camera if they see suspicious behavior from passersby
- Should a volunteer recognize a “heart conversation,” it may be appropriate for them to hand-off their AVP Outreach sign to another volunteer and then sit/stand off to the side to continue the conversation – NEVER move out of sight of the primary camera
- Should a volunteer struggle with a conversation, they should feel comfortable bringing in another volunteer to help them, introducing them with: “(volunteer’s name) what do you think about this?” or “Do you mind if I ask my friend (volunteer’s name) to join us?”
- Should a volunteer feel overwhelmed or feel as if they need a break, they should pass off their AVP Outreach sign to another volunteer, alert the team leader, and then step off/sit to the side, remaining in sight of the group
- Should a volunteer feel as if the person they are speaking with requires more concrete support, they should not hand out their personal contact information. Rather, they should bring their team leader into the conversation, and the team leader if comfortable should provide their contact information for follow-up
- Should a volunteer encounter a passerby who is interested in doing activism, they should record their contact information as instructed by their team leader and pass off that information to the team leader during debrief after AVP Outreach
- In the event that there are any disagreements among volunteers at AVP Outreach, the team leader should make a final decision if needed, and a discussion about the decision can be done during debrief afterwards

After AVP Outreach:

- The team leader should let volunteers know when it is time to end AVP Outreach
- At this point, volunteers who are not in conversation should step off together to the side, close their signs and put away their brochures and resource cards
- The team leader and primary camera should remain with those still in conversation

- If needed, the team leader should signal to volunteers that are still in conversation that it is time to leave by placing a hand on their shoulder and/or saying: “Sorry to interrupt, but we actually have to pack up right now”
- Once the entire team is ready to leave, AVP Outreach volunteers should return supplies all while the primary camera remains filming
- After the supplies are packed up, the team leader should initiate an AVP Outreach Debrief, have volunteers write down testimonies, collect any contact information gathered, and have volunteers fill out incident reports/police interaction reports if necessary

In the event of an incident:

- **We take threats of any kind very seriously and will immediately inform law enforcement of any threat, including violence or any sexual harassment.**
- If an incident occurs, the primary camera should move close enough to film the entirety of the incident
- All other volunteers should keep their distance, however some can start filming the incident as “secondary cameras” at a distance. Be aware that too many cameras can escalate the situation.
- The team leader should delegate instructions and tell primary police if and when to call 9-1-1 (never call 9-1-1 unless instructed by the team leader or a weapon is visible)

In the event of a police interaction:

- Volunteers should direct the officer to the team leader; volunteers should not be speaking to the police unless they are given a direct order by the officer (ask: Is that a direct order?)
- The primary camera should stand next to the team leader and film the conversation in its entirety
- The team leader should be sure to obtain the officer’s name, badge number, department, and a gist of what was said

Recommendations for the Team Leader:

- As a team leader, you are responsible for the safety of your volunteers and their conduct during AVP Outreach
- The team leader should not be the primary camera
- The team leader should be scanning the AVP Outreach intersection to ensure their volunteers are not having any problems. This generally means the team leader is not engaging in as much conversation
- The team leader should be clear and direct with his/her instructions, emphasizing that during AVP Outreach is not the time for volunteers to voice their disagreements, but rather afterwards during debrief