

**THE ATTITUDES OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES TOWARDS
WOMEN WHO REQUESTED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
SERVICES AT THE CARLETONVILLE HOSPITAL**

by

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SUPERVISOR: MRS MM VAN DER MERWE

JOINT SUPERVISOR: DR VJ EHLERS

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Student number: 882-489-4

DECLARATION

I declare that **THE ATTITUDES OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES TOWARDS WOMEN WHO REQUESTED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY SERVICES AT THE CARLETONVILLE HOSPITAL** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

SIGNATURE

(Nomathemba Emily Mokgethi)

DATE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PLEASE COMPLETE THESE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND FAX THEM TO ME ON MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2004 BEFORE 12:00 SO THAT I CAN GET THE TYPING DONE AND THE PHOTOCOPIES MADE. SEE EXAMPLE OF ANOTHER STUDENT'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ATTACHED.

NB: YOU MUST SIGN THE DECLARATION IN BLACK INK IN CLEARLY LEGIBLE AND LARGE ENOUGH HANDWRITING: ALSO WRITE IN THE DATE IN BLACK PEN AND FAX IT BACK TO ME IMMEDIATELY – NO LATER THAN 12:00 ON MONDAY 23 FEB
PLEASE

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ABSTRACT

The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (no 92 of 1996) was implemented during 1997. This study attempted to investigate professional nurses' attitudes towards rendering these services in the Carletonville area of South Africa. The research results, obtained from questionnaires completed by professional nurses, indicated that most professional nurses would prefer:

- women to be at least 16 years of age to access these services
- not to allow repeated terminations of pregnancy to the same women
- to administer pills rather than to use vacuum aspirations
- to work in these services by choice only
- to have better equipment, more resources and more staff members in units offering these services
- more support from their families, friends, managers and communities

Some professional nurses experienced guilt, depression, anxiety and religious conflicts as a result of the nature of their work.

KEY CONCEPTS

Abortions, Carletonville area of South Africa, Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (no 92 of 1996), religious aspects of abortions, support for professional nurses, stigmatisation of terminations of pregnancy, termination of pregnancy services,

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to