

her boyfriend for about a year but often forgets to take her daily contraceptive pill. After discussing her pregnancy with her boyfriend, he told her that he could not tie himself down with a wife or child because he needed to attend college in the fall and earn a degree. His decision disturbed Ivy, and, not sure what to do, she turned to her mother for support. Her mother strongly pressured her to have and raise the baby. She vowed to help Ivy raise her baby. After Ivy processed the information, she thought about the pros and cons related to having and raising the baby versus having an abortion. Although she was apprehensive, she was leaning toward an abortion, especially since she was no further along than she was.

Questions

Review the chapter content.

1. Ivy considered issues related to abortion and the stage of fetal development. Would the idea of equal moral standing between the fetus and Ivy be a concern? Please defend your position with information from the chapter and other sources.
2. What are other issues Ivy needs to consider before making her decision, such as her potential love for the baby, the responsibilities to herself and the baby, giving up her baby for adoption, attending college, working, and living with financial considerations? Please explain.

4-2: Ms. Mason's Decision: Carry Her Fetus to Term or Have a Partial-Birth Abortion?

Ms. Mason, aged 34 years, was 20 weeks pregnant. She had an amniocentesis and received the prenatal genetic diagnosis of Huntington's disease for her fetus. The day after the diagnosis, the physician explained two options to Ms. Mason: (1) carry the fetus to term and give birth to the baby, or (2) have a late-term abortion to terminate the pregnancy. The physician explained the procedure for the late-term abortion. The Masons were devastated by all the information and needed a few days to comprehend the situation and the options. They were conflicted between the love for their unborn baby and the decision to avoid future complications for the child and themselves. When they returned to the clinic, the Masons informed the physician and nurse they had made the difficult decision to have the partial-birth abortion. They made a decision to not have any more children, even after the physician had explained the possibility of using embryo selection (sperm sorting) if they decide in the future to have children.