



Medical Advice Policy Chapter Leader Agreement

ICAN **does not** allow chapter leaders to provide medical advice under any circumstances. **Medical advice** is the provision of a formal professional opinion regarding what a specific individual should or should not do to restore or preserve health. Typically, medical advice involves giving a diagnosis and/or prescribing a treatment for medical conditions.

Medical advice can be distinguished from **medical information**, which is the relation of facts. Discussing facts and information is considered a fundamental free speech right and is not considered medical advice.

Giving medical advice can be seen as practicing medicine without a license, and is an actionable offense that is likely punishable by law (it is illegal in all US states). Chapter Leaders can give their personal experiences, but **can not** tell someone what they should or should not do in a medical situation.

ICAN provides information - not advice. ICAN's mission is to improve maternal-child health by reducing preventable cesareans through education, supporting cesarean recovery, and advocating for vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC). Some chapter leaders are also independent birth professionals. As part of your chapter leader agreement, you are signing that you will refrain from mixing causes. While at ICAN meetings or events, or on ICAN internet forums, you are an ICAN leader, and not a medical professional. You may not attend births or prenatal appointments in the capacity of an ICAN leader. You are required to keep your professional business separate from ICAN.

Failure to follow this policy will result in action from ICAN's Board of Directors, including but not limited to suspension/termination of the chapter leader, and/or suspension/closure of the chapter in question. ICAN is a peer-to-peer support group, and does not provide professional or medical services.