

PART I: OVERVIEW

MADISON FIELD GUIDE

What IS 40 Days For Life?



- *The coming together of persons of all faiths (or even no faith) for a 40-day peaceful vigil of prayer and fasting to end abortion.*
- *It is a nationwide campaign.*
- *It will occur simultaneously in over 300 locations.*
- *In Wisconsin, there are chapters in Wausau, Appleton, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Racine and Milwaukee.*
- *It is peaceful, loving, prayerful and lawful.*

What ISN'T 40 Days for Life?

It is not a protest. It is not a political demonstration. It is not violent. It is not confrontational. It is not threatening.

WHERE does it take Place?

In Madison, the vigil will take place outside of Planned Parenthood on Madison's east side, located a few blocks north of East Washington Avenue just off Highway 51 (Stoughton Road) across from MATC. The address is:

*Planned Parenthood – (North Stoughton Road Location) 3706 Orin Road
Madison, WI 53704*

WHEN does it take place?

From 7:00 AM on March 2, 2022 to 7:00 PM on April 9, 2022, 12 hours a day / 6 days a week - Mondays - Saturdays; no Sunday hours.

I'm not as informed as I'd like to be – what does Planned Parenthood do anyway?

*According to their website Planned Parenthood health centers offer sexual and reproductive health care, education, and information, including gynecological care, STI/STD testing and treatment, pregnancy testing, and abortion services. **At this particular Madison location - where our campaign will take place - their website confirmed that they are an abortion only facility inclusive of dispensing the abortion pills.***

If I were someone just driving by, what would I be likely to see?

You would see two or more individuals alone or in a group in silent prayer or song, peacefully sitting, standing, kneeling, or walking along the public sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood. There would be no shouting, or protesting. It would be peaceful.

You would see 2 official signs that people might be wearing or holding simply to identify 40 Days for Life and to offer a hotline to abortion-minded men or women. Other signs would not be at the vigil site.

PART II: THE BASICS

> Activities <

Must everyone present put in a “full shift”?

No. The word “shift” simply refers to a specific portion of time on any given day during the 40 day period. The duration can be variable – such as one hour, two hours, etc. We are planning to have at least two individuals commit to each specific time period throughout the 40 days so that every minute is covered. Most people sign up for a shift lasting 1, 2, or 4 hours. You may sign up for your vigil hours by visiting <http://vigilforlife.org/calendar/>.

Also, note that having at least two persons there at all times during the 40 day event is only a bare minimum. Others are encouraged to sign up for or drop by for any length of time they wish. We will simply refer to the time any person is present as their “shift”, even if only for a few minutes.

Must everyone sign up ahead of time, or can someone just “drop by”?

You may just “drop by”. But if you know ahead of time, it would be helpful to have you sign up. We encourage everyone who drops by to put his or her name in the sign-in log.

What Activities may I do during my Shift?

Pray, Sing, Read Scripture or other works with which you are comfortable. You may invite but not necessarily expect others to join with you. You may listen to tapes or CDs with earphones.

May I eat or drink during my shift?

We will not have a cooler or other materials available to you this year at the vigil site. Since this vigil is based on fasting and prayer, it is preferable not to eat while doing a shift. However, if you feel you must, you may bring food and may eat during your scheduled time.

Do I have access to the Women's Care Center across the street (3711 Orin Road)?

Out of respect for Women's Care Center clients, we will not be accessing the building or property.

May I smoke during my shift?

Please try not to smoke during your shift.

May I bring a cooler with soda/snacks?

If you feel you will need them to maintain your energy through your shift, bring beverages or snacks. You will have to carry these items in a bag or leave them in your car. These items may not be set down.

May I bring a lawn chair?

We will not be able to have chairs stored at the vigil site. If you need to sit for a short time, you may bring a chair to rest for a moment. Fold up your chair and keep it by your side when you resume standing.

Am I supposed to carry or hold anything?

The only signs available to hold are the 2 official signs, a 40 Days for Life sign and an Abortion Pill Reversal sign. Please do not bring your own signs unless they have been approved by local 40 Days for Life leadership. You may hold candles and other prayer materials at any time.

May I bring my children along with me for a shift?

Yes! Please feel free to bring children. There will be no graphic signs at 40 Days for Life, so this will not be a concern. Please do watch your children while praying though, making sure they do not run out onto the street or step on Planned Parenthood property. To step on Planned Parenthood's property is trespassing. We must be careful not to trespass at any time, during business hours or beyond.

How old must a child be to be present without a parent?

There is no set age, since children mature differently. It will be left to the discretion of the child's parent as to whether a child is old enough to be at the abortion center without parental supervision.

> Places <

Where can I park?

There is parking along Orin Road and adjacent side streets near Planned Parenthood. Do not park in the Planned Parenthood parking lot! That is private property! Do not park in the Women's Care Center! We need to respect their rules for the privacy of women in crisis. If you park on Orin Road between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., make sure to move your car every two hours, since there is two hour parking.

Where can I stand/walk/sit/kneel?

You can stand, walk, or kneel on either the sidewalk or the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street.

Where should I NOT stand/walk/sit/kneel?

Please avoid stepping on the grass between the sidewalk and the Planned Parenthood building. This is their property, and stepping on their property could create problems.

Is there some sort of "Home Base" for people involved in this 40 Days for Life event?

Yes, this would be by the driveway entrance to the Planned Parenthood parking lot by the facility's entrance. You can tag out with the people who were there for the hour before your hour.

Where are the nearest restrooms or stores for food or drink or other supplies?

Directly along Stoughton Road there is a Kwik Trip gas station to the south. To get there, walk to the corner of Orin Road by the Planned Parenthood sign. Cross the street to your left and walk down the sidewalk one block to reach the Kwik Trip. Also, a few more blocks south, there is a Walgreen's at the junction of Stoughton Road and East Washington Avenue. Down East Washington is a Wendy's Restaurant (they support adoption).

> Logistics <

Should I check in when I arrive?

If you are arriving to your vigil hour, greet the prayer warriors who are out there to receive any instructions. If you are already at the vigil site and your replacements show up, introduce yourself and try to help acclimate the replacements. This is a great time to meet new people! What If I need to arrive late, leave early, or have to cancel at the last minute?

If you know several days or several hours ahead of time, please contact Gwen. We ask that you try to find your own replacement if you need to cancel a vigil hour. If you are unable to do so, please let us know. If you are running late while driving to the vigil site, please give Gwen a call at 608-393-8545.

There will be people on call to come to the vigil at the last minute if someone cancels, though it could take up to 15-30 minutes for that person to arrive.

What if no one shows up for the next shift but I have to leave?

Under no circumstances should the vigil site be without someone present; there must be at least one person there always! Call Gwen if your replacement does not show up. There will be people ready to come to the abortion center within a few minutes if someone doesn't show up. As a courtesy to others, try to never be late yourself.

What if I need to use a rest room?

You may use the public restrooms at the Kwik Trip gas station. To get there, walk to the corner of Orin Road by the Planned Parenthood sign. Cross the street to your left and walk down the sidewalk one block to reach the Kwik Trip.

What if it rains?

Wear whatever rain gear you feel is appropriate. You would want to bring your own umbrella if it is raining. If the weather gets too dangerous (e.g. lightning), then keep vigil in your vehicle, parked as close to Planned Parenthood as possible.

> Leadership & Rules <

Who is “In Charge”?

Gwen Finnegan is the Madison Campaign Director. Gwen can be reached at (608) 393-8545. At the site, whoever is an experienced prayer warrior can function as “in charge” if any problematic or procedural issues arise.

What is a Sidewalk Counselor?

A sidewalk counselor is someone who actively talks to women entering an abortion center and who provides women with information about abortion. We will have several sidewalk counselors during this campaign that have taken the Vigil for Life sidewalk counseling training. They will be working to offer support to abortion-minded men and women. While you may certainly greet them and talk to them, they will be trying to focus on sidewalk counseling. There are helpful pamphlets in the Official Vigil Bag which you may give out if you feel called to do so.

What Rules must I follow?

We ask you to sign our “Statement of Peace” which sets forth the “rules” of the Vigil. You may sign the Statement of Peace electronically at: <https://www.40-daysforlife.com/en/madison/sop> or by filling out a paper copy available in Official Vigil Bag. The Statement of Peace is also available as a PDF for printing at www.vigilforlife.org under “Important Documents.”

> Interacting <

How am I expected to interact with others joining in the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil?

Be polite and respectful. Invite them to pray with you.

If several individuals are participating on my shift, are we supposed to be unified or to “do our own thing” individually?

Try to find prayers acceptable to both/all of you. If this is not possible, it is okay to pray individually. Just maintain a spirit of prayer.

How am I expected to interact with persons on my shift who are not of the same church or religion as me?

Be respectful. Of course, no one is expected to do anything he/she believes is contrary to his/her religious beliefs. Try to find prayers everyone can agree upon. There is certainly nothing wrong, however, with silent prayer or individuals praying on their own.

How should I interact with strangers who may approach me? Or hecklers? Or persons who may be clients or employees of Planned Parenthood?

Be charitable. Listen to them. Talk to them in a spirit of charity. Invite them to pray with you. If things get out of hand, simply back off. Have anyone who witnesses the incident jot down what they observed for the record in the Incident Log. Also, call the police (9-1-1) if a heckler gets rough.

Am I expected to hand out any information? Or to provide information to people who may ask?

We will have resources available for people who are considering abortion and need help. We will have resources for people that have had an abortion and are in need of healing. These resources will be in the Official Vigil Bag.

What happens if any local news media show up?

The media will probably not show up, maybe just for the beginning of the Vigil. If they do, however, refer them to Gwen Finnegan. If you feel comfortable answering questions, you may speak honestly from the heart. If the media asks questions regarding the Vigil for Life organization or if you are uncomfortable speaking with the media, refer them to Gwen Finnegan at 608-393-8545.

> Troubleshooting <

Will there be any “Supplies” of any kind available?

There is just the Official Vigil Bag, which will contain the Vigil Binder and some helpful pamphlets. Please do not bring other materials to the vigil site because of the lack of storage. If you feel that something should be at the vigil site that is not, please contact Gwen Finnegan at 608-393-8545.

Are you sure this is all legal? Could I somehow get arrested for trespassing or disorderly conduct?

Yes, this is legal. We have been in contact with the Madison Police. If you have more questions, please contact Gwen Finnegan at 608-393-8545. Our police contact is Captain Kelly Donahue For right now, contact the police by calling the non-emergency number, 608-266-4948. For an emergency or if you witness a coerced abortion, dial "911." The police are aware we will be out praying. Remember to stay on the sidewalk or terrace (grass between sidewalk and road).

> Summary <

Can you sum all this up in the fewest words?

Sign-up/drop by, pray, fast, spread the word, hope, trust God.

*Thank you for participating in Madison's 40 Days for Life!
It is such a beautiful gift we are giving back to our Lord for the precious gift of our
LIFE!*