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**To ask the Minister for Health the efforts being taken to remove a false HSE website disseminating false information on abortion services; the way in which he plans to protect the dissemination of information on abortion services into the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Pringle,

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Health which was forwarded to my office to respond to you directly.

As you are aware, the HSE's My Options service is a free unplanned pregnancy support service which is the first point of contact for support and information about an unplanned pregnancy.

My Options offers non-directive, free counselling and information for people experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Information is available about all options, including continued pregnancy supports and abortion services.

We are aware of a number of websites and ads that are appearing in search results and social media that claim to be providing unplanned pregnancy support services under variations of the myoptions name. In the interest of patient protection, the HSE initially wrote to the owner of the website providing misleading information requiring him to cease using the phrase "my options" in the title of his website. Subsequently, the HSE followed up with legal proceedings, which are currently before the courts.

MyOptions.ie is part of the HSE website, and the official My Options helpline is 1800 828 010 (00 353 1 6877044 if calling from Northern Ireland) for unplanned pregnancy information and support.

We have been promoting the official myoptions.ie website and helpline online through search and social media, and will be doing this on an ongoing basis. All our ads mention the HSE, and all our search and social media ads link through to the official HSE website. The HSE is a trustworthy source and will ensure that women get the information they need about all their options regarding an unplanned pregnancy.

The My Options awareness campaign is also running across national radio, posters and social media to ensure that those who need the service are aware of the correct details and phone number - [www.myoptions.ie](http://www.myoptions.ie) / 1800 828 010 (00 353 1 6877044 if calling from Northern Ireland).

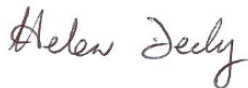
There are a number of unplanned pregnancy agencies that may have a hidden agenda. Some unreliable agencies may not be upfront about their intentions and may try to influence a person's decision. The HSE recommends that people should only visit a recognised or HSE-funded unplanned pregnancy counselling agency. If people are looking at information online, look for the HSE logo.

Signs that an agency or counselling service may not be reputable:

- they may require you to wait a long time between appointments
- they may only meet you in public places such as hotels or car parks
- there are delays in giving you pregnancy test results – these should be given immediately
- their leaflets or information do not give information about all your options or uses language that is very negative or frightening
- they may show inappropriate images, videos or DVDs as part of a counselling session, which are designed to influence a woman's decision.

Anyone can get information about reputable HSE funded unplanned pregnancy counselling services on [myoptions.ie](http://myoptions.ie) or by phoning 1800 828 010 (00 353 1 6877044 if calling from Northern Ireland).

Yours Sincerely



**Helen Deely**

Programme Lead, Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy