

Saskia's Second Call with BPAS.

TC20

BPAS - Call2

[Identifying data redacted ###]

[call length 32:38]

Reason Why?

SP: Okay. So can you tell me a little bit about why you decided to seek an abortion?

Saskia: Okay. Yeah. This probably sounds, oh, this is a bit embarrassing actually. So basically, I'd be more than happy to have children in the future and stuff like that. And we've discussed that and we want children, but just not at this particular point in time because I've just, so we've just literally like booked a holiday and we were just like quite confined during the lockdown. And it's been, I mean, we're both all right, but it's just been a bit emotionally draining, all these restrictions and everything. And we were just so looking forward to this holiday and I just want to... We just wanted to really focus on this holiday and just have a good time and not, I just didn't want to worry about looking pregnant on the beach and all that. I just, it's just so bad the timing right now.

SP: Okay. Okay. When is the holiday?

Saskia: The holiday is in late August.

SP: Okay. But you just, as a midwife myself, are you aware that you probably will not look pregnant?

Saskia: Yeah. I mean, I don't know. I don't know whether I would or not. I just don't want to really deal with any aspect of the pregnancy just now at this point in time. And I was just, it's not just looking pregnant. It's probably just whatever, morning sickness and anything. I've been feeling, I mean, it's been all right so far I just felt a bit queasy in the morning. And I just do not want to deal with that, with all of that right now.

SP: It sounds to me that the individual reasons you're giving come down to you just not being emotionally ready for a pregnancy right now.

Saskia: Um.

SP: It sounds, they are all extremely valid. Any reason that you ever give is always going to be valid for you. So whether it's physically with regards to however you look or feel, with regards to nausea, again all your travel plans, it sounds maybe like a physical, emotional time that you're not ready for pregnancy right now.

Saskia: Yeah, probably. Yeah.

SP: Yeah?

Saskia: Probably something like that. Yeah.

SP: Yeah. Okay. I mean, I don't want to put words in your mouth. What I have to do is attach what you tell me to a legal reason.

Saskia: Oh, okay.

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SP: Exactly. So when you, I just wanted to give you the right information, but any reason other than the sex of the baby is a valid reason to us, but *[we need]* to attach it to a legal reason, it sounds like emotionally it's not the right time. Because it doesn't necessarily sound like it's financial, possibly slightly physical, it doesn't sound maybe mentally, like you're not ready.

Saskia: Yeah. No. I mean, as I said, we talked about it and we definitely, definitely want children in the future.

SP: Yeah.

Saskia: It's just so, I mean, you know how it is with like the lockdown and everything. It's just been like, I mean, it's not... Like we've been pretty privileged. It's been harder for many other people, but it's just like, yeah. It's just so, the timing is just so not perfect. You know what I mean? Yeah.

SP: Okay. Okay. That's absolutely fine. Okay. So what I'm going to do now is run through a medical history with you. It does involve me asking lots of questions just to establish medically you're fit for our treatment.

Saskia: Okay.

Transcript continues

Saskia's Second Call with MSUK.

FC06

MSUK – Call2

[Identifying data redacted ###]

[call length 27:54]

Reason Why?

SP: All right. If you'd like counselling, that's available before and after the treatment, should you want it. For legal requirements, could you explain your reason for requesting a termination to me please?

Saskia: Oh, okay. Yeah. So yeah, this is a little bit embarrassing, but so basically, I'm not opposed to having children or anything. So, the only thing is that at this stage, it's really, it's like the worst time because yeah, as I said, it may sound a bit crazy, but with the lockdown, everything was just so limited in everything. And with the restrictions easing, my partner and I, we were like, we booked a holiday and stuff like that, and we were really excited and looking forward to it, going to the beach and everything. And I just don't want to be on holiday and be pregnant, it just really, I just can't. I just need this time for us really, you know?

SP: Okay. Okay. So those reasons we put under the emotional category, under the Abortion Act. Would you agree if we record this as emotionally unable to continue with the pregnancy due to not being the right time currently?

Saskia: I mean, I'm fine emotionally, I'm fine emotionally, totally fine. It's just that it's just so inconvenient really.

SP: Yeah. So the Abortion Act in the UK, we can offer an abortion for emotional, mental, or physical reasons, so there's only those three categories. So, everything related to a decision where it's not the right time, or you don't feel ready, or that sort of thing, we'd put it under the emotional category in the sense of, if you were to continue with the pregnancy, it would have an emotional impact, if there was a pregnancy that you were forced to continue with. But we would need to put it under a certain category as per the Abortion Act, our doctors aren't able to offer abortions otherwise. Everything is governed by this Abortion Act, okay? So it's either emotional, physical, or mental reasons. So for that reason, we put it under emotional. We're not saying that you're emotionally ... do you understand what I mean in that sense?

Saskia: Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

SP: Yep.

Saskia: So you kind of, basically you need to put it in some box, basically?

SP: Pretty much. Yeah. So what you've told me, we try and link as much as we can. I know it seems a bit strange, but we try and link your reason into emotional. So we would say, emotionally unable to continue with the pregnancy, due to not being the right time currently. And the reasoning behind it really is, if you were to continue with this pregnancy, it would have an emotional impact, for example.

Saskia: Okay. Oh, I mean, I wasn't aware of the legality so much. That's very interesting. Okay. I've just picked it up as being a woman's choice, so that doesn't occur to me.

SP: Yeah, it is. I mean, anything related to a choice, largely has to ... we need to hear that

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it's something that is emotionally not the right thing to do for you. There are other reasons, of course, physical, sometimes it is actually medically unsafe for a lady to be pregnant, or they can't continue with the pregnancy because of some medical condition. Or mental reasons, if someone's sectioned under the Mental Health Act, that sort of thing. Everything else has to come under the emotional category. I know that the categories seem a little bit sort of thin and not very wide ranging. It is indeed legal to request an abortion by choice, it certainly is. But we need to categorize it as per the Abortion Act, so that's the reasoning behind it.

Saskia: Okay. Yeah, that makes sense.

SP: Okay?

Saskia: Yep.

Transcript Continues