

## How You Can Act Locally To Protect A Woman's Right To Choose.



## **WACDTF**

**P.O. Box 21796  
Washington, DC 20009**

**202-797-6577**

**www.wacdtf.org  
info@wacdtf.org (auto reply)  
wacdtf@wacdtf.org (personal  
reply)**

## **WHO** is WACDTF?

The **Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force** is an all-volunteer, non-violent group founded in the 1980s to promote peaceful and safe access to women's health clinics in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

## **WHEN** are escorts needed?

Escorts are generally needed each Saturday, rain or shine, between 7 and 11 a.m., depending on the clinic. And of course, we mobilize on the days surrounding the January anniversary of Roe v. Wade, when thousands of anti-Choice protesters are in town each year.

## **WHAT** does WACDTF do?

We provide escorts to ensure a peaceful and reassuring presence for patients, their companions, and staff, at several local clinics.

## **WHY** is WACDTF necessary?

Because many anti-choice protesters still try to intimidate or harass **anyone** who provides or uses services at reproductive health clinics.

WACDTF helps counter these protesters' acts of harassment, picketing, and vandalism at clinics so that they remain open and accessible for all women. We escort at the invitation of clinic owners and in cooperation with local law enforcement.

## **HOW** do I get involved?

We hold monthly trainings for people to learn how to become clinic escorts. It is easy, and generally takes only 1½ hours to learn the techniques we use to defuse potential problems with clinic protesters.

Volunteer escorting is an important way to take a peaceful, proactive stance against the religious right, which wants to control women's options. Come and help us prevent that from happening locally on the front lines of this insidious movement against women's rights.

For training dates and times visit **www.wacdtf.org** or contact **WACDTF** at **202-797-6577** or **info@wacdtf.org**

## Goals and Guidelines:

1. To ensure that women have access to all reproductive health care services that they desire.
2. To convey the message that women have the right to control their own bodies and lives.
3. To encourage personal empowerment through action.
4. To keep the clinics open and functioning at the request of the providers.
5. In keeping with our nonviolent position for these actions, we will seek to secure the positions required to keep access open, hold our ground, and not be bullied out of position. We will not engage in any physical assault.
6. We will not engage anti-woman activists in debate. We will always attempt to utilize designated spokespersons where the content of our message will reach third parties or the media.
7. Only designated persons should engage in conversations with the police or officials. If asked to move by police officers, ask if you will be arrested if you refuse, particularly on private property if we have permission to be there. Do not applaud the police for reluctantly doing their duty after long delay.
8. Posters/signs/chants shall always be in good taste.

**Yes, I want to take a local pro-active stance for Choice.** Please add me to your membership list for our newsletter mailings. (Please print clearly. Thank you.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

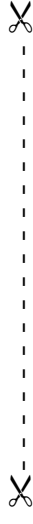
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me with more information about escorting.



And we always love financial donations to help us defray advertising and outreach costs. If you would like to assist in this way please make your check payable to WACDTF. **Donations are tax deductible.**

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9. We will be cooperative with the leadership of participating organizations, put the purpose of our joint action first, and respect the diversity of participants.

10. We will not engage in any physical confrontations with anti-choice people on Metro; i.e. on steps or escalators, at turnstiles, on platforms, or within buses or trains. We will not attempt to block them within 30 feet of a Metro station.

Besides escorting, we **always** need WACDTF members to contribute in a variety of ways through the following committee work:

**Clinic Relations** - Clinic liaisons, weekly escorting, provider information and provider networking.

**Legal/Political** - Legal observation, documentation, court actions, working with public officials.

**Outreach** - Recruitment, coalition building, education, and media efforts.

**Resources** - Budget, fundraising, record keeping, membership contacts and mailing list.

**Training** - Plan trainings, assistance for new clinic defense groups, and resource materials.

**To find out more on how to get involved, see the next page.**