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ULTRASOUND CONSENT FORM

An ultrasound has been ordered on you and your unborn child by your physician. There are many reasons that this diagnostic test may have been ordered. Some of these include: Evaluation of your baby for birth defects, growth patterns, amniotic fluid level, Doppler flow indices, abnormal blood test results, or as adjuncts to diagnostic/therapeutic testing or procedures. The quality of ultrasound examinations are extremely dependent on the equipment utilized, the sonographer doing the ultrasound, the position of your baby within your womb, your body habitus, previous abdominal surgery and the physician who interprets your exam.

Ultrasound examinations have never been shown to damage you or your baby. This is not an x-ray. Ultrasound uses sound waves. The ultrasound produces a small burst of high frequency sound and then listens for the "echo" of the sound in your body. A computer then integrates this information to make the picture that you see on the screen. Many things can be seen about your baby, such as birth defects and growth abnormalities. Ultrasound is also used to see where the baby is in relation to the needle when certain invasive procedures are done, such as amniocentesis.

Failure to have this ultrasound done may make it difficult, if not impossible, to care for you and your pregnancy in the best way possible. There may be abnormalities of your reproductive system that may benefit from diagnosis and treatment. You may not be able to take advantage of many options afforded to you by law. The birth of your baby may be compromised by not being able to have the appropriate specialists present during your pregnancy and at the time of your delivery that your baby may need. Without ultrasound, therapeutic measures would also not be possible, and this may result in a damaged baby or even the loss of the life of your baby.

The utmost care and concern is given to you and your unborn child. Even so, ultrasound is not a perfect science and things can be missed or not seen depending on the age of the baby, your body composition, and the position of your baby within the womb. There are some abnormalities that are never seen with ultrasound.

I understand that ultrasound cannot see all things in me or my unborn child, but that it may be very helpful tool to help manage my pregnancy and plan the delivery.

I have read this consent, fully understand the above information, have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction.

I **want** an ultrasound performed on me.

I **decline** to have an ultrasound performed on me.

Signed _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Date _____