

## **PREGNANCY POLICY**

Judson College believes strongly that God designed sexual activity to occur within the context of marriage. However, the College encourages an expecting mother to choose life should an unexpected pregnancy occur. Therefore, an unmarried student who is expecting will be permitted to continue her studies at Judson College.

### **REPORTING**

A student who discovers that she is pregnant should contact the Vice President and Dean of Students as soon as possible. Judson's goal is to help the pregnant student have a healthy, comfortable and supportive living environment throughout the pregnancy. The Vice President and Dean of Students will refer the student to appropriate on/off campus support to assure that the mother has a *comprehensive prenatal care plan* in place and the department has the most up-to-date contact and physician information in case of an emergency.

### **ACADEMICS**

Pregnant students may continue taking classes. We will work with the student (commuter or resident) to ensure that she can finish her courses. Students will be excused from classes and allowed to make up the work missed for medical appointments, childbirth, and related conditions, just as they would for other medical conditions or "other temporary disabilities." As with other medical conditions, a doctor's note may be required.

If a student prefers to take a medical leave of absence with the intention of returning to campus after delivery of the baby, such leaves may be requested from Student Life. Leaves may be granted for as long as it is deemed medically necessary.

### **CAMPUS HOUSING**

If a pregnant student chooses to remain in on-campus housing throughout the pregnancy and decides to keep the infant after the birth, it is important that the student make necessary arrangements prior to delivery for housing for the infant after delivery. Judson College does not provide housing for children or spouses.

Resident students who are pregnant must be under a doctor's care and must provide evidence that they are complying with that care (e.g., keeping regularly scheduled appointments, following care instructions, etc.).

At times, it may not be possible during a student's pregnancy for campus housing to adequately meet the needs of the pregnant student and/or the associated needs of the other members of the residential community. If this should occur, Student Life may determine that the pregnant student needs to move to an appropriate off-campus residence, in which case Student Life will help the student make the transition. (It should be noted, however, that resources to help a student locate off-campus housing are significantly limited and may be minimal at certain times of the year.)

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

A pregnant student's scholarships will not be taken away due to her condition. Athletic scholarships will remain intact. Scholarships requiring a student to maintain a certain grade point average may be taken away due to failure to meet that standard.

## **LIABILITY**

The College assumes no liability or responsibility for the student's pregnancy, prenatal care, miscarriage or other complications, abortion, or birth.

A pregnant student is required to sign the Judson College Liability Waiver form, a legal document relieving the College of any and all liabilities and/or responsibilities for the student's pregnancy, prenatal care, miscarriage or other complications, abortion, or birth.

## **SUPPORT**

While pre-marital sexual activity may be subject to the disciplinary process (see the Judson College Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook), Judson's response to pregnancy is to provide support and resources for the students involved. Students will be reminded of personal counseling services available to all students. Like Christ, in His encounter with the woman in John 8, we seek to not condemn, but to encourage our students to "go and sin no more." Our hope is that we can minister grace.

A pregnant student may be assigned a mentor, acceptable to the student, chosen from the Judson staff/faculty community. This person will be available to come alongside the student to offer spiritual and emotional support and guidance, as well as practical advice.