

## FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCURRENCE OF A CONCEALED/DENIED PREGNANCY

“Denial of Pregnancy poses the risk of a host of problems, the most serious among them being neonaticide”  
(NSPCC All Babies Count)

<p><u>Previous Life Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor parenting experience as a child</li> <li>Effects of early sexual trauma</li> <li>Loss of custody of previous child</li> <li>Previous rejection a child</li> <li>Previous termination</li> <li>Previous Children’s Services involvement e.g child protection</li> <li>Previous Concealed/Denied Pregnancy</li> <li>Not following through health checks for existing children</li> <li>Moving about/files lost</li> </ul>	<p><u>Day to Day Presentation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abdominal disorder/pain</li> <li>Nausea/Weight gain/loss</li> <li>Wearing uncharacteristically baggy clothing</li> <li>Uncharacteristically withdrawn/moody behaviour</li> <li>Rumours /concerns expressed by friends</li> <li>Menstrual difficulty/irregular periods</li> <li>Believing self to be infertile</li> <li>Very private at home, socially withdrawn/isolated</li> <li>Reluctance to discuss with health professionals</li> <li>Family collusion</li> </ul>
<p><u>Reasons for Concealment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shame</li> <li>Fear of ostracism from some social groups</li> <li>Feelings around stigmatisation</li> <li>Irrational perceptions/fears about being pregnant</li> <li>Anticipation of separation from baby(not cope or somebody taking child away or pressure to have abortion)</li> <li>Thoughts of termination</li> <li>Sexual trauma</li> <li>Intellectual limitations/lack of knowledge of basic physiology</li> <li>Abusive relationship</li> <li>Dissociation due to mental health problems/substance misuse</li> </ul>	<p><u>Circumstances requiring heightened Professional Curiosity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncharacteristic presentation/behaviour –clothing/absences/weight gain or loss</li> <li>Where friends/others express concerns</li> <li>Where the concerns are in relation to a child or young person being pregnant</li> <li>Previous Concealed /Denied Pregnancy</li> <li>Complete absence of pre-natal care</li> <li>Where the information offered by the mother appears limited</li> <li>Where the level of engagement feels superficial, although polite</li> <li>Where additional child safeguarding risk factors are identified</li> <li>Not keeping medical appointments post-birth</li> <li>Where a termination had been considered, or where the child has been removed and subsequently returned to mother</li> <li>Where, subsequent to a concealed pregnancy, concern arises about bruising or injury to a child of the family, neglect ,or emotional and sexual abuse</li> <li>Child or young person is reluctant to participate in Physical Education</li> </ul>