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**Child Maltreatment**

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## **Child Maltreatment**

### **Question 1**

After watching the video concerning the newborn babies' withdrawal symptoms, I felt the whole situation was regrettable and shameful (Chapter 8: Fetal Abuse). A child has a constitutional right to begin life in good health of a sound body and mind. The babies are innocent beings who should not be put to such sufferings because of recklessness witnessed among them. Besides, parents must take complete control of what they consume when pregnant because, at this stage of life, they should understand that it is not only their lives that they are putting in danger but also the lives of these young souls that they are carrying in their wombs. The mothers who put their babies to such kind of torture should be involved in a certain level of punishment besides being put under rehabilitation to teach them lessons that it is wrong to use drugs when pregnant (Chapter 8: Fetal Abuse).

Again, the hospitals that do not report such cases for federal help must be held responsible and jailed because it is traumatizing to see a baby suffer. At the same time, certain institutions decide to bury such cases for their reasons. It is better for the mothers who are addicts to choose not to have babies until they can stop drug dependency rather than put their babies in such horrible pain as what I watched in the videos.

### **Question 2**

Tennessee's state law allows the prosecutors to send to the drug courts women who give birth to babies who test positive for drugs and cannot provide evidence that they are doing everything to get clean is justified, right, and timely. According to Gonzalez & Dubois (2014), drug-dependent babies are so weak, sick. They often have heart complications, making it so

expensive for them to be delivered and raised compared to clean babies. When you look at the health problems these innocent babies are exposed to is just because of their mothers' recklessness. Thus, it is pretty okay to arrest such mothers to serve justice to the innocent babies and rehabilitate them to be better mothers in the future for the babies. Arresting and jailing such mothers will make it possible for the state to offer treatment for the babies and prevent their mothers, who could re-introduce them into drug addiction, from accessing them. At the time of their reunion, both mothers and the babies will be clean and out of drug dependency. In turn, the mothers will focus on raising their kids with responsibility. It is, therefore, right to jail the mothers found guilty for using drugs while pregnant by the Tennessee state government.

### **Question 3**

In comparison, the ingestion of drugs by pregnant mothers' affects both the unborn and the mother's health. The use of alcohol, methamphetamines, and heroin by expectant mothers makes babies born with various health conditions. Such babies' health problems include liver problems, heart problems, skin problems, brain problems, and the babies being underweight. The kids born suffer from drug withdrawal problems, making them suffer drug addiction symptoms just like their mothers (Ross et al., 2015). Additionally, for the mothers, dependency on these drugs makes them drained economically for what they think of and how to get money for the next high. Thus, drug addiction poses many health challenges to the fetus and socioeconomic challenges to the mothers in society.

In contrast, the use of MA during pregnancies results in underweight children's delivery and reduced gestation period resulting in underdeveloped babies. Babies born by alcoholic mothers show signs of lengthy recognized fetal alcohol syndrome with smaller brains and

cognitive delays and impairments. Notably, babies born by mothers who are heroin addicts offer various structural body alterations with poor and low memory (Ross et al., 2015).

## References

Chapter 8: Fetal Abuse. <https://us->

[lti.bbcollab.com/recording/72d6d81469ad4f20970b7fcad94e070d](https://us-lti.bbcollab.com/recording/72d6d81469ad4f20970b7fcad94e070d)

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Ross, E. J., Graham, D. L., Money, K. M., & Stanwood, G. D. (2015). Developmental consequences of fetal exposure to drugs: what we know and what we still must learn. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, *40*(1), 61-87.

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