

Abortion Laws in Pennsylvania – Questions and Answers

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

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Can I still get an abortion legally in Pennsylvania?

Yes. The U.S. Supreme Court’s recent *Dobbs* decision has no impact on the legality of abortion in Pennsylvania. Abortions are still legal here through the 23rd week of pregnancy, and after that if your life or health is in danger. Medical (“pill”) abortions and in-clinic procedure abortions are both still legal.

Can I get an abortion in Pennsylvania if I live in another state?

Yes. Nothing in Pennsylvania law prevents people from other states getting abortions here. If you have concerns about whether your own state might try to interfere with your right to receive an abortion in Pennsylvania, reach out to the Women’s Law Project (www.womenslawproject.org, or infopitt@womenslawproject.org, or 412-281-2892), the National Abortion Federation (<https://prochoice.org> or 1-877-257-0012), or a reputable local legal assistance organization in your state (ex: through a local or state bar association referral program or community legal services provider) for help.

What if I am a minor?

Minors under the age of 18 can get abortions in Pennsylvania if they have parental consent or get a court’s approval through a “judicial bypass” process. For more information and assistance with the judicial bypass process, contact the Women’s Law Project (www.womenslawproject.org, or infopitt@womenslawproject.org, or 412-281-2892).

Are there any other legal limitations on abortions in Pennsylvania?

In addition to the limitations after 23 weeks of pregnancy, abortions cannot be based on the sex of the fetus. Pregnant people seeking abortions here must also take some specific steps including confirming the pregnancy with a medical provider, receiving required counseling, waiting 24 hours, and giving informed consent. The counseling and informed consent can typically be done by telephone. For more information on your rights and these requirements, contact the Women’s Law Project (www.womenslawproject.org, or infopitt@womenslawproject.org, or 412-281-2892).

What can I do if I am unsure about information I am receiving while seeking an abortion in Pennsylvania?

Make sure you clearly understand the services that any organization you contact offers – and does not offer. Ask specific questions, including clearly confirming they provide abortions if that is what you are seeking, and what you will need to do – and when – to receive your preferred type of abortion.

Reach out to the Women’s Law Project (www.womenslawproject.org, or infopitt@womenslawproject.org, or 412-281-2892) or the National Abortion Federation (<https://prochoice.org> or 1-877-257-0012) if you are unsure about something a provider or other organization is saying or asking you to do to receive abortion services if that is what you are seeking, or if you have any other concerns.

Also, Pennsylvania state law prohibits deceptive or misleading business practices. Contact us (www.attorneygeneral.gov or 7877-888-4877) if you believe any provider or organization may be misleading or deceiving you or others.

What can I do if someone harasses or intimidates me while I am trying to get abortion care, or makes it hard for me to enter my abortion facility?

In an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, contact local law enforcement, the FBI (<https://tips.fbi.gov> or 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324)) or our office (www.attorneygeneral.gov or 717-787-3391). This kind of harassment, intimidation, actual or attempted physical injury, and blocking access to abortion facilities is against federal law. Some attempts to interfere may also violate federal or state criminal law.

Where can I get more information or help?

For more information about Pennsylvania abortion laws and your rights, contact the Women’s Law Project (www.womenslawproject.org, or infopitt@womenslawproject.org, or 412-281-2892) or the National Abortion Federation (<https://prochoice.org> or 1-877-257-0012).

If you experience or witness any harassment, intimidation, actual or attempted physical injury, or blocking access to abortion facilities, call 911 in an emergency, or contact local law enforcement, the FBI (<https://tips.fbi.gov> or 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324)) or our office (www.attorneygeneral.gov or 877-888-4877).