



# YOUR RIGHTS TO ABORTION CARE IN OHIO:

## WHAT ARE THE LIMITS ON ABORTION ACCESS IN OHIO?

- Currently, in Ohio, abortion is legal up to 21 weeks and 6 days LMP (last menstrual period).
- Patients can receive care on the day of their appointment without any state-mandated delays.
- The abortion pill (also known as medication abortion) may be offered up to 12 weeks and 0 days LMP.
- Patients can be prescribed the abortion pill mifepristone via a telemedicine appointment.
- In addition to medical doctors, advanced practice clinicians – such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives - can prescribe mifepristone.

*The state of Ohio prohibits providers from performing an abortion if the provider is aware that the patient is seeking an abortion for the purpose of terminating a pregnancy where the fetus has been diagnosed with Down syndrome.*

## IS THE “HEARTBEAT” BILL BLOCKED IN COURT?

Yes. As of October 2024, an Ohio court permanently struck down Senate Bill 23, a law that banned abortions after fetal cardiac motion is detected, at approximately six weeks. Ohio officials appealed some minor aspects of this decision, asking the court to preserve some ancillary provisions of the law, such as definitions, documentation, and penalties. To be clear: restoring these technical provisions would not in any way restore the six-week ban. These aspects of the case are under review with a trial judge.

## WHERE CAN I OBTAIN ABORTION SERVICES?

There are currently seven full-service clinics open in Ohio that provide both surgical and medical abortion. These clinics are: Northeast Ohio Women’s Center, Planned Parenthood Bedford Heights Surgery Center, Planned Parenthood Cincinnati Surgical Center, Planned Parenthood Columbus Surgical Center, Planned Parenthood Dayton Surgical Center, Preterm-Cleveland, Toledo Women’s Center.

There are also 6 additional clinics that provide medication abortion services: Aria at JustCenter (Cincinnati), Aria At JustCenter (Columbus), Jensen Family Health & Wellness, Planned Parenthood Athens Health Center, Planned Parenthood Mansfield Health Center, Your Choice Healthcare of Columbus. There are also four additional clinics that provide medication abortion services: Athens Planned Parenthood, Your Choice Healthcare of Columbus, Northeast Ohio Women’s Center (Shaker Heights), and Toledo Women’s Center.

**Note** - be cautious of fake clinics known as Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) that are anti-abortion centers or mobile vans posing as reproductive healthcare centers. These fake clinics will often have misleading names to try to convince communities that they are valid, licensed healthcare centers — they are not. Fake clinics deceive people with medically inaccurate information and shame people who choose or are thinking about choosing abortion.

## HOW CAN I OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ABORTION CARE?

Abortion Fund of Ohio (AFO) is Ohio’s statewide abortion fund, they provide financial assistance and practical support (transportation/housing, etc.) to help patients afford contraception, emergency contraception, and abortion services. AFO distributes funds to clinics across Ohio. If you need help accessing abortion care, visit [www.abortionfundofohio.org](http://www.abortionfundofohio.org).

## RECENT HISTORY:

After *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2022, Ohio abortion advocates, including the ACLU of Ohio, came together to put forth a statewide ballot measure to amend Ohio’s Constitution to add explicit protections for abortion care, so that our rights were never again at the whim of individual politicians or judges. This measure, “The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety Amendment” enshrines the explicit and fundamental right to abortion in the Ohio Constitution, and forbids the state from burdening, prohibiting, penalizing, and interfering with access to abortion. The measure passed with 56% of the vote on November 7, 2023, and became law on December 7, 2023.

The ACLU of Ohio has been at the forefront of this issue, working through the legal system to dismantle other abortion restrictions that remain part of Ohio law. The following laws have now been struck down in court:

- A requirement that patients wait at least 24 hours after their first in-person appointment to have an abortion
- A restriction that prevented providers from prescribing mifepristone for abortion via a telemedicine appointment
- A restriction preventing advanced practice clinicians – such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives - from providing medication abortion
- A requirement that fetal and embryonic tissue from procedural abortions be buried or cremated

**The ACLU of Ohio will continue fighting to expand abortion access for all under Ohio’s Reproductive Freedom Amendment.**