

YOUR RIGHTS TO ABORTION CARE IN OHIO

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



Across the country, abortion rights advocates continue to fight for our bodily autonomy. In Ohio, abortion access is a constitutionally protected right following the passage of Issue 1 in November 2023. Ensuring that people have access to the full spectrum of quality reproductive healthcare — from contraception to abortion, to prenatal and postpartum care — is critical for improving our health and providing people the ability to plan their futures and participate equally in our society.

As anti-abortion lawmakers try to strip away our rights, the ACLU of Ohio will be here fighting, no matter what, for people's right to choose when and if they want to have children.

WHEN AND WHY DO PEOPLE SEEK ABORTION?

Prohibiting abortion does not remove the need for abortion, it just exacerbates the economic divide between who can and cannot access care.

The majority of abortions occur earlier in pregnancy. Roughly 98% of abortions take place before 20 weeks, and the vast majority (92 percent) occur within the first 13 weeks.

Studies show that many of those who seek abortion care after 20 weeks wanted an earlier abortion but faced financial hurdles and legal barriers, including the need to travel for care. For others, new information such as fetal diagnosis may arise later in pregnancy. And for still others, circumstances change and a wanted pregnancy becomes untenable, for example when a partner leaves or dies, a young child develops a serious illness, or someone in the family loses their job or health insurance. In all of these circumstances, the ability to access later care is essential.

As soon as a person has the information they need and has decided to end a pregnancy, we should make sure they do not face barriers to abortion care.

Various methods of abortion are available depending upon the stage of pregnancy, the patient's preferences, and other medical indications. Abortion care has low complication rates. Patients should talk to their providers about which type of abortion care is best for them.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS TO ABORTION IN OHIO?

Currently, in Ohio, abortion is legal up to 21 weeks and 6 days LMP. After *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2022, Ohio abortion advocates 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" passed with 56% of the vote on November 7, 2023, and became law on December 7, 2023.

There are currently six full-service clinics open in Ohio that provide both surgical and medication abortion. These clinics are Northeast Ohio Women's Center (Akron), Planned Parenthood Bedford Health Center (Bedford Heights), Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio (Cincinnati), Preterm (Cleveland), and Planned Parenthood East Health Center (Columbus), and Women's Med Center of Dayton (Kettering).

There are also three additional clinics that provide medication abortion services, Your Choice Healthcare of Columbus, Northeast Ohio Women's Center (Shaker Heights), and Toledo Women's Center.

**The state of Ohio does prohibit abortions performed in response to genetic anomaly (for example, a diagnosis of Down syndrome).*

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 or call 614-300-7811.

IS THE "HEARTBEAT BILL" BLOCKED IN COURT?

As of September 14, 2022, an Ohio court granted a temporary injunction against SB 23, a law that bans abortion after fetal cardiac motion is detected, approximately six weeks. Abortion is legal through 21 weeks and 6 days gestation until further notice.

There are no current challenges to this injunction. On December 7, 2023, the Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety Amendment went into effect, protecting reproductive freedom, including abortion.

ACLU of Ohio legal team and partners are pursuing a permanent injunction against the six-week abortion ban.

The ACLU of Ohio will never stop fighting for abortion access, and we will do everything in our power to ensure Ohioans have the healthcare they need.

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WWW.ACLUOHIO.ORG/REPRO

THINGS TO KNOW WHEN SEEKING ABORTION CARE?

Many patients want to understand what an abortion will feel like, what recovery will be like, and how much it will cost. Here are a few trusted sources that you can count on when researching abortion:

- WHO (World Health Organization) www.who.int/health-topics/abortion
- Planned Parenthood www.plannedparenthood.org