

# **Abortion rights in Washington State**

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## **Last Review Date**

December 1, 2025

Read this to understand your legal rights around abortion under Washington State laws.

## **Is abortion legal in Washington State?**

**Yes.** In Washington State, you have the legal right at any age (<https://legalvoice.org/abortion-rights-washington/>) to end your pregnancy. The United States Supreme Court's decision that overturned Roe v. Wade didn't change this legal right for people who live in Washington State.

## **Can I come to Washington State from another state to have an abortion?**

**Washington now has a “shield law.”** This new law prevents cooperation with out-of-state investigations and prosecutions of abortions that take place legally in this state.

This means that the state you live in can't get information about any reproductive health care you got here. But you should also check the laws of the state where you live.

## **Can I have an abortion for any reason?**

**Yes,** up until the time when a fetus could survive outside of the uterus (when the fetus becomes viable, as determined by your medical provider). After that, you may only get an abortion if continuing the pregnancy would endanger your life or physical or mental health.

## **Does my immigration status matter?**

**No.** No one will ask you about this.

## **Do I need to get anyone else's permission to have an abortion?**

**No.** There are also other types of health care that you can get without an adult's permission.

**Can I keep my abortion confidential?**

**Yes.** No one else has the right to know about it. Under federal law, your doctor can't share information about your medical care.

**Will my insurance company keep information about my abortion confidential?**

In Washington State, if you don't want your insurance company to send information to your home or to the person paying for your insurance, you can send the insurance company a confidentiality request form created by the state Office of Insurance Commissioner (<https://www.insurance.wa.gov/coverage-abortion-services>) to let them know how to communicate directly with you instead.

**Will my health insurance cover abortion?**

**Probably.** Under Washington state law, most health insurance plans in this state that cover pregnancy care must also cover abortions. If you have a Providence Health Plan, the Washington State Department of Health will cover an abortion.

**I can't afford private insurance but I'm not eligible for Medicaid (Apple Health). Do I have any other options?**

You can apply for Washington State's Family Planning Only program (<https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-need-medical-dental-or-vision-care/family-planning-only>). It covers a range of reproductive health care needs and services.

**What if I'm worried about protestors at the clinic?**

In Washington State, it's illegal for protestors to do any of these things:

- Stop you from entering a clinic or other medical facility
- Threaten you or anyone who is with you
- Make loud noises outside that disturb you inside the clinic
- Trespass on the clinic's private property

If any of these happens to you, tell the clinic staff, consider calling 9-1-1, and contact Legal Voice (<https://legalvoice.org/>) at [info@legalvoice.org](mailto:info@legalvoice.org) (<mailto:info@legalvoice.org>) or 206-682-9552. Legal Voice specializes in

reproductive legal rights in the Pacific Northwest.

**Is a pregnancy crisis center the same thing as a clinic?**

**No.** Most pregnancy crisis centers have no medical professionals on staff. If you're looking for a free pregnancy test, you can contact a community health clinic or family planning clinic.

**Where can I learn more about my health care rights in Washington State?**

You can visit the [visit the Washington State Department of Health website \(https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/sexual-and-reproductive-health/abortion\)](https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/sexual-and-reproductive-health/abortion).

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