



KNOW YOUR ABORTION RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW

- You have the right to an abortion before viability. You do not need to provide a reason for why you are seeking an abortion.
- You have the right to an abortion after viability to protect your life or your health.
- You have the right to confidentiality. If you are married, generally your spouse will not be notified about your abortion.
- You have the right to obtain an abortion without parental consent. If you are a minor, generally your parents or guardians will not be notified about your abortion.
- You have the right to have your prescription for medicine to bring about an abortion filled in a timely manner.
- You have the right to access abortion services for little-to-no charge. Abortion services should generally be covered by your health insurance.
- You have the right to enter and exit an abortion clinic without being physically obstructed.
- You have the right to have an abortion performed by a trained professional. Only authorized healthcare providers, such as licensed doctors, nurses-midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, with proper training, can perform abortions.
- You have the right to ask your healthcare provider if they have objections to certain forms of medical care. Healthcare providers are allowed to refuse to perform abortions for moral, ethical, or religious reasons.

ABORTION ACCESS RESOURCES

- o [ACCESS Reproductive Justice](#) connects people to free and low-cost programs that pay for reproductive healthcare for people living in, traveling to, or traveling from California to receive an out-of-state abortion.
- o [Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project](#) helps bridge the financial gap for people across the U.S. who seek an abortion, working with 700 clinics, doctors, and hospitals on behalf of patients.
- o The [National Abortion Federation](#) and [abortionfinder.org](#) maintain a list of abortion providers.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is viability?

Viability is determined on a case by case basis, based on the judgment of a medical professional, but is generally around 24 weeks of pregnancy. Consult with your medical provider to determine how far along you are in your pregnancy.

In what cases will my spouse be notified about my abortion?

If you are on your spouse's insurance, your spouse may receive an insurance notification about approval for services.

In what cases will my parent or guardian be notified about my abortion?

Healthcare providers cannot inform your parents or guardians that you received an abortion without your signed, written consent. However, they must notify your parents if you are under 12 and report sexual assault or rape.

In what cases are abortion services not covered or not free?

Medi-Cal provides abortion coverage free of charge. Most state-regulated private health plans and insurance companies must cover abortion services as part of your health insurance benefits. However, self-funded employer health benefits are not required to provide abortion coverage, though many do. If you are unsure whether your health plan provides abortion coverage, review your health plan's coverage documents.

Will I be charged a co-pay or deductible for my abortion?

Starting in 2023, state-regulated private health plans and insurance companies cannot require co-pays, deductibles or similar charges for abortion-related services.

Is there a way to check to see if abortion is covered under my health insurance?

You are entitled to review coverage documents provided by your health insurance plan. These documents may be called an Evidence of Coverage or Summary of Benefits and Coverage, and should tell you whether the plan will cover your abortion. If you do not have your plan documents, call your plan and ask for a copy. You do not need to provide a reason to request a copy.

What if I believe my rights have been violated or I receive a bill for my abortion?

If you believe that you were unlawfully charged for abortion services or you were denied any of the aforementioned rights, please immediately file a complaint at oag.ca.gov/report.

This alert was issued by the Healthcare Rights and Access (HRA) Section of the California Department of Justice. HRA works proactively to increase and protect the affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare in California. HRA attorneys monitor and contribute to various areas of the Attorney General's healthcare work, including consumer rights; anticompetitive consolidation in the healthcare market; anticompetitive drug pricing; nonprofit healthcare transactions; privacy issues; civil rights, such as racial equity and discrimination in healthcare, reproductive rights and LGBTQ healthcare-related rights; and public health work on tobacco, e-cigarettes, and other products.