Accessing your right to abortion if you are...

In Massachusetts, you have a legal right to access an abortion, including access to medical and surgical abortion and telehealth abortion care. Abortion care is essential health care, and whether you are a Massachusetts resident or not, or a student, young adult, or minor – you have a right to access safe, affordable, and confidential abortion care in Massachusetts.

... in Massachusetts

You have a right to access abortion care in Massachusetts, including medication and surgical abortions, whether you live in Massachusetts or travel to Massachusetts for care.

- If your pregnancy has lasted 24 weeks or less, you have an unqualified right to access an abortion in Massachusetts.
  - To find an abortion provider in Massachusetts, please visit: https://reproequitynow.org/find-a-provider-massachusetts
  - Most commonly, telehealth providers may prescribe and mail the abortion pill to you if your pregnancy is less than about 13 weeks.
- For pregnancies beyond 24 weeks, you have a right to access an abortion if:
  - A physician determines that it is necessary for the preservation of your life, physical health, or mental health; or
  - A physician determines the fetus has a lethal anomaly or diagnosis that means it is incompatible with sustained life outside of the uterus
  - To find a clinic that provides abortion services after 24 weeks of pregnancy, call the National Abortion Federation Hotline, **1-877-257-0012.**

... outside of Massachusetts

You can access an abortion in Massachusetts even if you do not live in Massachusetts. If you have questions about potential legal risk associated with accessing abortion care in Massachusetts, please contact the free and confidential Abortion Legal Hotline at **1-833-309-6301.**

- The hotline offers free and confidential legal advice for Massachusetts residents and those who travel to Massachusetts for an abortion, and also connects patients with information about abortion access and care in the state.
- Visit Accessing Abortion Care in Massachusetts for more information about protections for abortion and reproductive health services, finding a provider, or exploring payment options, located at: https://www.mass.gov/accessing-abortion-care-in-massachusetts

... on your college campus

You have a right to access abortion care through your campus health center if you attend a public college or university in Massachusetts. Your campus health center is required to provide medication abortion and/or abortion referrals.

Accessing your right to abortion if you are...

... under 16

- You have a right to an abortion in Massachusetts if you are under 16 and have written permission from a parent, legal guardian, or a judge. In the case of an emergency requiring immediate action, permission is not required.
- Written permission from only one of your parents or legal guardians is sufficient.
- If you cannot obtain, or do not wish to obtain, the permission of a parent or legal guardian, you can petition a judge to obtain permission to have an abortion through a judicial bypass proceeding.
- In a judicial bypass proceeding, the court will appoint an attorney for you or you may choose to represent yourself.
- The court must schedule a hearing as soon as possible and prioritize the matter over all other cases so that a decision is issued as quickly as possible and without delay.
- There is no cost to petition.
- All judicial bypass proceedings are confidential.
- The judge will grant the bypass if the judge determines that you are sufficiently mature to decide whether to have an abortion or, that parental notification is not in your best interest.
- As part of this determination, the judge may consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to your education, employment, financial circumstances, parental relationships, whether you have made other big decisions in your life and the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy, including whether you have received options counseling and confirmed your pregnancy.
- The considerations do not include whether the judge personally thinks it's a good idea or you to have an abortion. The court must decide whether to allow you to make your own decision.
- If the court denies your petition, you have the right to an expedited appeal.
- This process is also available to minors living outside of Massachusetts who seek care in Massachusetts.
- If you are 16 or 17, you can legally consent to your own medical care and do not need permission to access abortion care.

To learn more about how to petition for judicial bypass:

- Contact Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts at 617-616-1636. Planned Parenthood will help you with the process and connect you with an attorney.
- See Superior Court Standing Order 1-21: **https://www.mass.gov/doc/superior-court-standing-order-1-21-uniform-procedures-regarding-petitions-for-abortion/download**
- Required Forms:
  - In the Matter of Mary Moe Petition: **https://www.mass.gov/doc/mary-moe-petition-0/download**
  - Mary Moe Confidential Sworn Statement: **https://www.mass.gov/doc/mary-moe-confidential-affidavit-of-petitioner/download**

If you have additional questions, please contact our Reproductive Justice Unit at reprojustice@mass.gov

Obtaining abortion care in Massachusetts...

...should be safe

Know Your Rights. You have a right to access abortion care in Massachusetts that is free from discrimination, harassment, and violence. Any infringement on, or interference with, this right is against the law. It is illegal to deny you access to health care on the basis of your pregnancy status or pregnancy history, as well as for your actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation, or your race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, age, or other protected characteristic. It is also illegal for an employer or housing provider to discriminate against you based on your reproductive health care decisions.

- If you have concerns about your experience accessing health care or believe that you have been discriminated against, please file a complaint with our Civil Rights Division online at **mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint** or call **617-963-2917.**

Exercise Caution. Even with these legal protections, it is important to be mindful when seeking abortion-related care. Not all organizations that appear to provide reproductive health services provide abortion care. Facilities known as anti-abortion centers (also known as crisis pregnancy centers) often mislead people seeking an abortion with the purpose of preventing them from accessing abortion care. Follow these tips when seeking abortion care:

- Research any reproductive health care center before scheduling an appointment through checking their website and online reviews.
- Ask whether the center is licensed and equipped to provide an abortion or referral for abortion before going to your appointment.
- Watch out for warning signs such as: attempting to delay your appointment; referring to themselves as a pregnancy resource, help, or care center; advertising free pregnancy tests, abortion counseling, or pre-abortion screenings, but refusing to provide or refer for abortion care; and using tactics to pressure you into continuing a pregnancy, such as providing a small plastic fetus or baby clothes.
- When you arrive at your appointment, make sure you are in the right place. Many anti-abortion centers are located near legitimate abortion providers and use similar marketing and names to mislead you.
- For help finding a licensed abortion provider, go to: **reproequitynow.org/find-a-provider-new-england.**

Ask for Protection. It is illegal in Massachusetts for an individual to impede access to a reproductive health care center.

- If someone is restricting access to a reproductive health care center, you should contact law enforcement, which can order that individual or individuals to relocate at least 25 feet away from the facility.
  - Restricting access includes the use or threat of force or physical obstruction to injure, intimidate, or interfere with individuals obtaining or providing reproductive health care. Examples of illegal behavior include blocking an entrance or exit; impeding a person trying to walk through the parking lot or into the facility; threatening or engaging in an act of physical violence; or stalking.
- If you have concerns about your experience accessing a reproductive health care center or with an anti-abortion center, file a complaint with our Civil Rights Division online at **mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint** or call **617-963-2917.**

...should be confidential

Health care providers generally cannot share medical records or information about reproductive health care services — including abortion, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases — with your partner, parents, guardians, or anyone else without your permission. Likewise, your employer cannot access personal information about your or your partner's reproductive-health decisions.

...should be affordable

Massachusetts requires MassHealth, GIC, and commercial health insurance plans subject to Massachusetts law to fully cover abortion and abortion care without co-payment, deductible, or coinsurance.

- If your health insurance provider is required to follow Massachusetts law, meaning that it is a fully-insured health plan, your abortion care is covered without cost-sharing.
  - If you are not sure whether your health insurance is fully-insured, contact your health insurance provider or your employer.
- Limited exceptions exist for employers that are church organizations or qualified church-controlled organizations. Such an organization is required to tell their employees, before enrollment, if their employer-sponsored health insurance plan does not cover abortion.

If you are uninsured, have insurance that does not cover abortion care, or are otherwise in need of financial assistance for travel, lodging, or other expenses associated with obtaining an abortion, the following abortion funds can help:

- Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund: **https://www.emafund.org/**
- Tides for Reproductive Freedom: **https://www.tidesforchange.org/**
- Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts: **https://arfwm.org/**
- Jane Fund of Central Massachusetts: **https://www.janefund.org/**

If you have a problem with health insurance bills or medical bills, file a complaint with our Health Care Division online at **https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-health-care-complaint** or call our Health Care Helpline at **(617) 963-2100.**

Additional Resources & Assistance

To find an abortion provider in Massachusetts:

- Go to **https://reproequitynow.org/find-a-provider-massachusetts**
- Go to **abortionfinder.org** or **abortionondemand.org** for state-by-state provider information.
- Go to **laterabortion.org** for information on clinics that provide abortions at 24 weeks and later.

To receive judgement-free mental health support related to abortion care:

- Call All-Options at **1-888-493-0092** or visit **all-options.org.**
- Text Exhale Pro-Voice at **617-749-2948.**

For legal information and assistance questions:

- Call the Abortion Legal Hotline at **833-309-6301.**
- Call the ACLU of Massachusetts at **617-482-3170** or online at: **legalresources@aclum.org.**
- Call the Attorney General's Office. For concerns about your health insurance or medical bills, please file a complaint with the Health Care Division online at **https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-health-care-complaint** or call our Health Care Helpline at **(617) 963-2100.** For all other concerns about accessing abortion care, contact the Civil Rights Division at **mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint** or call **617-963-2917.**

If you have additional questions, please contact our Reproductive Justice Unit at reprojustice@mass.gov