

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

