

Accessing your right to contraception if you are...

In Massachusetts, you have a legal right to access affordable contraception. Contraception is essential to reducing unintended pregnancies, and whether you are a Massachusetts resident or not, or a minor – you have a right to access a variety of safe, affordable, and confidential contraceptive options in Massachusetts.

... in Massachusetts

You have a right to access contraception in Massachusetts.

- Contraception includes birth control pills, intrauterine devices (“IUDs”), rings, patches, implants, contraceptive shots, diaphragms, cervical caps, and emergency contraception.
 - The term contraception is also sometimes used to describe widely available methods, like condoms and spermicide, and surgical interventions, like vasectomies and tubal ligations.
- In Massachusetts, you can access hormonal birth control pills, patches, and emergency contraception at a pharmacy without a prescription in a few different ways:
 - Some contraception, like Opill, is available over-the-counter and can be purchased online (at opill.com) and most major retail pharmacies.
 - Pharmacists may (but are not required to) prescribe and dispense the pill or the patch without a prescription from a provider regardless of whether the contraceptive pill or patch is prescription-only. Some pharmacists may still choose to require a provider prescription.
- You may also obtain emergency contraception, even before it is needed, directly from a pharmacist. If you need the morning-after pill, you can go to any pharmacy location in Massachusetts, where it is usually stored behind the pharmacy counter.
 - If you are the victim of a sexual assault, the hospital or other treating facility is required to offer you emergency contraception at no cost.
 - Emergency contraception may also be dispensed by vending machine on college campuses or at community centers.
- Insurance must cover a 12-month supply dispensed at once if you are on the birth control pill, patch, or ring and you have been on the same brand of contraceptive for more than 3 months.
- It is not necessary to undergo a pelvic exam or PAP test to get a prescription for hormonal contraceptives.

... outside of Massachusetts

You can access contraception from Massachusetts providers or pharmacists even if you are not physically present in Massachusetts. Most commonly, telehealth providers may prescribe and mail hormonal contraceptives to you.

... under 18

You have a right to contraception in Massachusetts if you are under 18. Massachusetts law does not require your parent or guardian to consent for you to access contraception or emergency contraceptives. And the Department of Children & Families (DCF) does not need to consent if you are in its custody. Massachusetts also ensures that those under 18 can access confidential sexual and reproductive health care.

- Anyone can obtain contraceptives at a Department of Public Health (“DPH”) funded provider, including those under 18.
- DPH-funded clinics charge on a sliding-scale fee basis, which means that you pay what you can afford. If you are under 18, this helps maintain the confidentiality of your care because you can pay in cash and without the use of health insurance.
- Find a DPH-funded sexual and reproductive health provider here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sexual-and-reproductive-health-service-locations#who-can-get-low-or-no-cost-family-planning-services?>

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



Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell