

State Law Overview: Alabama

Mandatory Waiting Period

Alabama has a mandatory waiting period of 48 hours before a patient can receive an abortion.¹

Biased Counseling/Informed Consent

Alabama requires that patients receive information about the abortion procedure. This information has been deemed evidenced-based by the Guttmacher Institute.²

Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP)

Alabama requires that all clinics where medical and aspiration abortions are performed conform to the standards of ambulatory surgery centers. A law that requires physicians performing abortions to have admitting privileges to a hospital within 30 miles of the clinic has been enjoined by a federal judge.³

Restrictions on Minor's Obtaining Abortion Care

Alabama law requires that anyone under the age of 18 who seeks an abortion must have the consent of a parent or guardian. This requirement is waived in the event the minor has a medical emergency. Judicial bypass is available for minors who do not want to obtain parental consent.⁴

Gestational Limits

Alabama has a ban on abortions twenty weeks post fertilization (22 weeks LMP). There is an exception when the life or physical health of the mother is endangered by the pregnancy.⁵

Mandatory Ultrasounds

Alabama law requires that an ultrasound be performed on everyone seeking abortion at least 48 hours before the abortion is performed.⁶

Counseling Ban/Gag Rule

Alabama law restricts certain state health agencies, including the Office of Women's Health and Medicaid, from discussing or referring for abortion.⁷

¹ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Counseling and Waiting Periods for Abortion, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_MWPA.pdf

² *Id.*

³ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Targeted Regulation for Abortion Providers, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_TRAP.pdf

⁴ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Parental Involvement in Minors' Abortions, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_PIMA.pdf

⁵ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, State Policies on Later Abortion, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_PLTA.pdf

⁶ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Requirements for Ultrasounds, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_RFU.pdf

⁷ NARAL, *Who Decides: the Status of Women's Reproductive Rights in the United States*, 2016, *available at* <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/assets/download-files/2016-wd-report.pdf>

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Alabama does not regulate crisis pregnancy centers and has a state license plate program that helps to fund them.^{8 9}

Refusal to Provide Medical Services

No state laws exist (federal refusal laws apply).¹⁰

Restriction of Private and Public Insurance Coverage of Abortion

Alabama restricts Medicaid from reimbursing for abortions. Alabama law also only allows private insurance purchased through the state health exchange plans to cover abortion, if the pregnancy is the result of rape, incest, or the mother's life is endangered by continuing the pregnancy.¹¹

⁸ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, 'Choose Life' License Plates, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_CLLP.pdf

⁹ NARAL, *Who Decides: the Status of Women's Reproductive Rights in the United States*, 2016, *available at* <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/assets/download-files/2016-wd-report.pdf>

¹⁰ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Refusing to Provide Health Services, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_RPHS.pdf

¹¹ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Restricting Insurance Coverage of Abortion, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_RICA.pdf