

State Law Overview: North Carolina

Mandatory Waiting Period

North Carolina has a mandatory waiting period of 72 hours before an abortion can be obtained. ¹

Mandatory Ultrasound

North Carolina law requires that everyone seeking an abortion must receive an ultrasound beforehand and must be offered the opportunity to see the image. A law that requires providers to describe the image is permanently enjoined. ²

Biased Counseling/Informed Consent

North Carolina law requires that someone seeking an abortion undergo mandatory counseling that includes biased information intended to dissuade someone from having the abortion. ³

Gestational Limits

North Carolina restricts abortions that are performed 18 weeks post fertilization (20 weeks LMP). There is an exception for when the life or health of the mother is endangered by continuing the pregnancy. ⁴

Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP)

North Carolina law requires that outpatient clinics performing medical and/or aspiration abortions conform to the standards of ambulatory surgery centers. ⁵

Restrictions on Minor's Obtaining Abortion Care

North Carolina law requires that anyone under the age of 18 who is seeking an abortion obtain written consent from a parent, guardian, or a grandparent with whom the minor has been living with for 6 months prior to receiving abortion care. This requirement can be waived in a medical emergency. ⁶

Restriction of Private and Public Insurance Coverage of Abortion

North Carolina law does not allow Medicaid reimbursement for abortion unless the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest or the life of the mother is threatened. North

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

³ 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

⁴ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, State Policies on Later Abortion, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_PLTA.pdf

⁵ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Targeted Regulation for Abortion Providers, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_TRAP.pdf

⁶ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Parental Involvement in Minors' Abortions, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_PIMA.pdf

Carolina also limits coverage of abortion for the health exchanges and state employees unless the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest or the life of the mother is threatened. ⁷

Counseling Ban/Gag Rule

North Carolina currently has no laws prohibiting counseling or referring for abortion. ⁸

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

North Carolina state policy refers women to CPCs and allows state money to fund them. ^{9 10}

Refusal to Provide Medical Services

North Carolina allows individuals and institutions to refuse to provide abortions. ¹¹

⁷ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Restricting Insurance Coverage of Abortion, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_RICA.pdf

⁸ 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>

⁹ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, 'Choose Life' License Plates, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_CLLP.pdf

¹⁰ 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>

¹¹ Guttmacher State Policies in Brief, Refusing to Provide Health Services, Jan. 1, 2016, *available at* http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_RPHS.pdf