

State Law Overview: Oklahoma

Mandatory Waiting Period

Oklahoma has a mandatory waiting period of 72 hours before an abortion can be performed. ¹

Mandatory Ultrasound

Oklahoma law requires that providers allow patients to view the ultrasound image and that it be described to the patient. ²

Biased Counseling/Informed Consent

Oklahoma requires that patients seeking an abortion are subjected to counseling that incorrectly links abortion to a higher risk of developing breast cancer and the scientifically disputed idea that fetuses can feel pain at 20 weeks gestation. ³

Gestational Limits

Oklahoma restricts abortions at 20 weeks post fertilization (22 weeks LMP). There is an exception when the life and physical health of the mother is threatened. ⁴

Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP)

Oklahoma requires that abortion clinics meet the standards for ambulatory surgery centers. Currently, laws that would require doctors performing abortions to have hospital privileges within 30 miles of the abortion clinic are enjoined. ⁵

Restrictions on Minors Obtaining Abortion Care

Oklahoma requires that a parent or guardian be notified and give notarized consent to an abortion if it is sought by someone under the age of 18. Minors who do not wish to obtain parental consent may be able to obtain a judicial bypass. There are exceptions for minors experiencing a medical emergency or when abuse, neglect, incest, or assault is present in the home. ⁶

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

Restriction of Private and Public Insurance Coverage of Abortion

All private insurance plans, health exchange plans, and insurance for public employees is restricted from covering abortion services except when the life of the mother is threatened. Oklahoma also enforces the Hyde Amendment, which bans abortion coverage for Medicaid except when the mother's life is endangered or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.⁷

Counseling Ban/Gag Rule

Oklahoma restricts some organizations that receive state funds from referring for abortion services.⁸

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Oklahoma has no restrictions on crisis pregnancy centers and provides state sponsored referrals to crisis pregnancy centers for women with unintended pregnancies.^{9 10}

Refusal to Provide Medical Services

Oklahoma allows medical institutions and providers to refuse to refer or perform 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