

State Law Overview: Tennessee

Mandatory Waiting Period

Tennessee has a mandatory waiting period of 48 hours before an abortion can be obtained.¹

Mandatory Ultrasound

Tennessee has no law requiring or regulating an ultrasound before an abortion is performed.²

Biased Counseling/Informed Consent

Tennessee law requires that someone seeking an abortion visit the clinic for mandatory in person counseling a minimum of 48 hours before the abortion can be performed.³

Gestational Limits

Tennessee law bans abortions post 24 weeks with an exception if the life or health of the mother is endangered by continuing the pregnancy.⁴

Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP)

Tennessee law requires that clinics and private physician offices where medical and/or aspiration abortions are performed conform to the standards of ambulatory surgery centers. Abortion clinics are also required to have a transfer agreement with a hospital in the same or an adjacent county, and physicians performing abortions are required to have admitting privileges.⁵

Restrictions on Minor's Obtaining Abortion Care

Tennessee law requires that anyone under the age of 18 who is seeking an abortion obtain written consent from a parent or guardian prior to receiving abortion care. This requirement can be waived in a medical emergency, if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, or if the teen comes from a home with documented instances of abuse and/or neglect.⁶ Minors may obtain a judicial bypass if they do not wish to obtain consent prior to the abortion.

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

Tennessee restricts Medicaid from reimbursing for abortion unless the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, or if continuing the pregnancy endangers the life of the mother. Tennessee law also restricts insurance plans purchased through the health exchange from covering abortion under any circumstances.⁷

Counseling Ban/Gag Rule

Tennessee has no law that prohibits state funded organizations or individuals from discussing or referring for abortion.⁸

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Tennessee law does not regulate crisis pregnancy centers and has a license plate program that funds them.^{9 10}

Refusal to Provide Medical Services

Tennessee law allows individual and institutions to refuse to provide abortion services.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