

ABORTION RESTRICTIONS IN GEORGIA

Abortion access in Georgia is restricted by a number of policies. Several key restrictions and their effects on access are listed below.

Gestational Limit

Georgia currently limits abortion to early pregnancy (i.e., after discovery of embryonic cardiac activity, or approximately six weeks' gestation). The ban likely **disproportionately harms patients who are Black, younger, and in lower socioeconomic status groups.**

Mandatory Waiting Period

People must wait 24 hours after an initial appointment before obtaining an abortion. Time delay and added clinic visits may **increase gestation** at time of abortion and **increase cost to the patient.**

State-Mandated Counseling

Georgia abortion providers must deliver state-mandated information (also known as the "Women's Right to Know") during an initial abortion counseling visit, 24 hours before an abortion is obtained. State-mandated counseling **includes claims that are not grounded in scientific evidence.**

Parental Notification

Parents of a young person seeking abortion care must be notified at least 24 hours before the procedure. A process called judicial bypass allows young people to obtain court approval to make the decision without a parent. This may **delay care, increase gestation** at time of abortion, and **exacerbate existing inequities in access to care.**

Refusal of Medical Care

Institutions and individual providers can refuse to provide abortion care and prescriptions, family planning, or sterilization on the basis of moral or religious grounds. This may **delay access** and **increase cost** by forcing patients to seek a different provider.

Abortion Facility Requirements

For abortions performed after the first trimester, the facility must be registered as a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or an abortion facility. This **geographically limits access** and **exacerbates existing inequities in access to care.**

Physician-Only Requirements

Only a licensed physician can provide abortion care in Georgia, including prescription of medication abortion. A separate law specifically prohibits the practice by physician assistants or nurse practitioners. This **geographically limits access, as half of Georgia counties have no practicing OB/GYN.**

Health Insurance Restrictions

The Hyde Amendment bars federal funding for abortion, except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the parent. Georgia additionally applies these restrictions to Medicaid and state employee insurance plans. Plans sold on the ACA Marketplace only cover abortion to save the life of the parent. This **increases cost, disproportionately affecting low-income individuals.**



The Center for Reproductive Health Research in the Southeast (RISE) is a research center housed at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Our mission is to improve reproductive health and equity of people in the U.S. Southeast through transdisciplinary research that informs social, systems, and policy change.