Know Your Rights: Abortion in Maine

DOES THE U.S. SUPREME COURT OVERTURNING ROE V. WADE MEAN ABORTIONS ARE ILLEGAL?

Not in Maine. Maine law protects your right to an abortion. On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court determined that the U.S. Constitution does not include a right to an abortion. But Maine law and the laws of certain other states separately protect the right to an abortion.

ARE THERE LIMITS ON ABORTION IN MAINE?

There is no waiting period required for abortion services in Maine. Maine law allows for abortions up to the point of viability (usually about 24-28 weeks, as determined on a case-by-case basis by your health care provider). Maine law also provides exceptions to the viability restriction to save the life or health of the pregnant person or in the case of a fatal fetal diagnosis.

I’M UNDER 18 YEARS OLD, CAN I GET AN ABORTION?

Yes. Minors can receive abortion care in Maine in a variety of ways. They can involve a parent, a family member, or receive counseling from a doctor, nurse or other state-approved counselor.

WHAT IF I CAN’T AFFORD AN ABORTION?

Your insurance might cover an abortion. Almost all state-regulated private health insurance plans that cover prenatal care must include abortion coverage without exclusions or limitations. In addition, pregnant persons who are eligible for MaineCare may obtain state funded abortion services. Contact your insurance provider for specific policy information.

If you do not have insurance, you can still receive abortion care at one of Maine’s abortion care providers, Planned Parenthood, Maine Family Planning, and Mabel Wadsworth Center.

CAN I GET A PRESCRIPTION FOR ABORTION MEDICATION ONLINE IN MAINE?

Yes. In Maine you can get a prescription for medication abortion through an online telehealth appointment with a health care provider and have the medication sent to you by mail. Generally, medication abortions are available up to around 10 weeks of pregnancy.

There are private funds available for people who cannot afford an abortion through The Laura Fund through Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and Maine’s SAFE Fund.