

PROVINCIAL LEGAL SNAPSHOT

Alberta

Abortion law, funding, and access — one-page reference

As of Jul 13, 2026

Research completed Jul 13, 2026

Confidence: high



● Abortion is legal at every stage of pregnancy — Canada has had no criminal abortion law since 1988 — but geographic gaps limit access in this jurisdiction.

LEGAL LIMIT	None (nationwide)	OFFERED LOCALLY TO	20 weeks (policy)	✓ INSURED SERVICE	Yes	✓ CLINIC ABORTIONS FUNDED	Yes
✓ MIFEGYMISO COVERED FOR ALL	Yes	✓ TELEHEALTH	Available	✓ SAFE-ACCESS ZONES	Law in force	✓ RECIPROCAL BILLING	Covered
TRAVEL ASSISTANCE	No	INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTION	Yes	PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	Not required	MINOR CONSENT	Mature minor common law
PENDING CHANGE	See below						

§ Jurisdiction overview

Abortion in Alberta is fully publicly funded with no legal restrictions, but procedural services are concentrated almost entirely in Edmonton and Calgary, leaving rural and northern Albertans with significant travel burdens.

Alberta Health Care Insurance Act, RSA 2000, c A-20

▣ Funding & coverage

Abortion — both surgical and medication — is a fully insured service under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan, covered for all residents with a valid health card, with no co-payment or deductible.

Alberta Health Care Insurance Act, RSA 2000, c A-20, s 1 · Canada Health Act, RSC 1985, c C-6, s 2 · Government of Canada, Canada Health Transfer deductions announcement, March 10, 2023

CLINIC VS. HOSPITAL FUNDING

Alberta publicly funds abortions performed both in hospitals and in accredited free-standing clinics — there is no facility-type exclusion comparable to the former New Brunswick Regulation 84-20.

TRAVEL & OUT-OF-PROVINCE CARE

Alberta has no public program that funds travel or accommodation for patients who must travel within the province for abortion — unlike several other provinces with Northern Health Travel Grant-equivalent programs.

● Where services actually are

Procedural abortion is available at two free-standing clinics (Kensington Clinic in Calgary, Woman's Health Options in Edmonton), some hospitals in Edmonton and Calgary, and a service in Lethbridge up to 20 weeks; medication abortion is available province-wide via any physician, nurse practitioner, or telehealth service. Alberta imposes no statutory gestational age limit on abortion, but clinic and hospital policies cap procedural services at approximately 20 weeks; patients beyond this cutoff are referred out of province or to the United States.

Alberta Health Services, 'Abortion Services' · Kensington Clinic website · Clinic 38 website

MINORS

Alberta has no statutory age of consent for medical treatment; minors are assessed under the mature-minor common-law rule — a young person who demonstrates sufficient understanding and maturity may consent to abortion without parental involvement.

SAFE-ACCESS ZONES

The Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act (2018) creates 50-metre access zones around designated abortion facilities and authorizes additional zones by regulation around physicians' offices and residences; no constitutional challenge has been reported.

▣ Recent changes

- Dec 2025 Bill 11 (Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, No.

- Feb 2025

Alberta government expanded parental access to minors' MyHealth Records up to age 18 (previously cut off at age 12), raising significant confidentiality concerns for teens seeking abortion and other sensitive care.
- Feb 2024

CPSA announced that the term 'effective referral' would be removed from the draft Conscientious Objection standard following stakeholder feedback, maintaining a weaker access obligation than Ontario's effective-referral requirement.
- Dec 2023

CPSA published proposed revisions to the Conscientious Objection standard for consultation, including a proposed effective-referral requirement; the proposal drew intense opposition from religious and pro-life groups.
- Oct 2023

United Conservative Party membership passed an internal policy resolution calling for defunding of third-trimester abortions except when the pregnant person's physical health is at risk; not enacted as legislation.
- Mar 2023

Federal government deducted approximately \$13.8 million from Alberta's Canada Health Transfer, including \$6 million for patient charges related to insured abortion services and private surgical clinics — the first significant CHA enforcement action involving abortion access in Alberta.
- Aug 2022

Clinic 38 opened, offering virtual medication abortion care province-wide with a priority on rural and remote Albertans; the Central Zone saw Mifegymiso prescriptions nearly triple from 2022 to 2023.

⌵ Pending changes to watch

Bill 11 / Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2) — implementation Legislation · Passed December 10, 2025; regulations and implementation framework under development as of mid-2025; federal government has signalled potential Canada Health Act enforcement. If 'flexibly participating physicians' offer abortion services privately, residents able to pay could obtain faster access while those relying on the public system could face longer waits.
CPSA Conscientious Objection Standard Revision Policy · Under review; consultation closed; final revised standard not yet published. The revised standard will clarify — and likely not strengthen — the access obligation on objecting physicians.
UCP internal resolution on third-trimester abortion defunding Policy · Adopted as internal party policy at 2023 UCP convention; no legislation tabled. If enacted into law or regulation, public funding for abortion beyond viability (roughly 23-24 weeks) would be restricted, affecting an already extremely marginalized patient population requiring later-gestation care.

⌵ Key authorities

Alberta Health Care Insurance Act Alberta Health Care Insurance Act, RSA 2000, c A-20 Establishes the framework under which abortion is an insured health service in Alberta; defines 'basic health services' and governs benefits eligibility.
Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act, SA 2018, c P-26.83 Creates 50-metre statutory safe-access zones around abortion clinics, making Alberta one of the Canadian jurisdictions with legislated buffer zones.
Health Professions Act Health Professions Act, RSA 2000, c H-7 Governs the regulation of physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and midwives — determining who may lawfully provide abortion care and under what professional obligations.
Canada Health Act Canada Health Act, RSC 1985, c C-6 Sets the federal criteria provinces must meet for full Canada Health Transfer funding, including the prohibition on extra-billing and user charges for insured services such as abortion.
Criminal Code — born-alive rule Criminal Code, RSC 1985, c C-46, s 223 Codifies the born-alive rule: a child becomes a human being only upon complete live birth, the foundational provision for fetal non-personhood in Canadian law.

Generated from the structured legal focused deep-research record for AB, Canada (research completed 2026-07-13). This snapshot condenses a much larger sourced dataset — full citations, quoted statutory text, and plain-language explanations are in the full Alberta survey. This document has not been reviewed by a lawyer and should not be used as legal advice.