

PROVINCIAL LEGAL SNAPSHOT

Manitoba

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	19 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	Yes	INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTION	Yes	PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	Not required	MINOR CONSENT	Mature minor common law
PENDING CHANGE	See below						

§ Jurisdiction overview

Abortion is publicly funded at hospitals and one free-standing clinic, with universal Mifegymiso coverage, but all surgical services are in Winnipeg and Brandon, leaving rural and northern residents with significant travel burdens.

The Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, CCSM c S4, s 2 · Excluded Services Regulation, Man Reg 46/93, s 2, item 28 · Jane Doe 1 v Manitoba, 2004 MBQB 285

▣ Funding & coverage

Therapeutic abortion is an insured service under the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Plan when performed in a hospital or minister-approved facility, including the Women's Health Clinic.

The Health Services Insurance Act, CCSM c H35 · Excluded Services Regulation, Man Reg 46/93, s 2, item 28 · Jane Doe 1 v Manitoba, 2004 MBQB 285

CLINIC VS. HOSPITAL FUNDING

Following the Jane Doe 1 Charter ruling in 2004, the province funds abortions at the Women's Health Clinic, a free-standing clinic, on the same basis as hospital abortions.

TRAVEL & OUT-OF-PROVINCE CARE

The Northern Patient Transportation Program subsidizes travel for northern Manitoba residents, and the Out-of-Province Transportation Subsidy Program covers eligible travel when care is unavailable in Manitoba.

● Where services actually are

Surgical abortion is provided at Women's Health Clinic and Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, and at Brandon Regional Health Centre; medication abortion is concentrated in these same centres plus some rural telehealth. No law limits gestational age for abortion in Manitoba, but service policy caps range from 9 weeks (medication in Brandon) to 19 weeks 6 days (aspiration in Winnipeg); beyond that patients are referred out of province.

Abortion Care, Women's Health Clinic · Abortion Options & Information in Manitoba (March 2026), SERC · Out-of-Province Coverage, Manitoba Health

MINORS

Manitoba applies the common-law mature minor doctrine: a minor who understands the nature and consequences of the procedure can consent to abortion without parental involvement; the Health Care Directives Act sets a rebuttable presumption of capacity at age 16.

SAFE-ACCESS ZONES

The Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, in force February 1, 2025, creates automatic 50-metre access zones around all clinics and prescribed facilities, prohibits specified interfering conduct, and provides for fines, imprisonment, civil damages, and injunctions.

▣ Recent changes

- Feb 2025 The Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, CCSM c S4 (SM 2024, c 5), came into force, creating automatic access zones of 50 metres around all clinics and prescribed facilities and up to 150 metres around provider residences, with penalties of up to \$5,000 fine and six months' imprisonment for a first offence.

- Sep 2019

Manitoba implemented universal no-cost coverage of Mifegymiso for all residents with a valid Manitoba Health card, eliminating deductibles and co-pays and providing direct pharmacy reimbursement.
- Jan 2019

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba's Standard of Practice — Good Medical Care took effect, including section 10 on conscience-based objection permitting physicians to refuse to provide or refer for a procedure on grounds of conscience while requiring provision of an information resource.
- Jan 2017

Mifegymiso became commercially available in Canada after Health Canada's July 2015 approval; Manitoba initially provided coverage only through Pharmacare deductible plans and Women's Health Clinic, creating a cost barrier of approximately \$300 for uninsured patients.
- Jun 2015

The Interprovincial Health Insurance Agreements Coordinating Committee removed therapeutic abortion from the list of services excluded from reciprocal billing, enabling Manitoba residents to obtain funded abortions in other provinces and territories without point-of-service charges.
- Nov 2005

Manitoba amended the Excluded Services Regulation (MR 46/93), adding clause (c) to item 28 — 'in a facility approved by the minister' — formally bringing free-standing clinic abortions within the public insurance scheme after the Jane Doe 1 Charter decision.
- Jul 2004

The Government of Manitoba began funding clinic abortions at Jane's Clinic (now Women's Health Clinic) through the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, following the December 2004 Court of Queen's Bench ruling in Jane Doe 1 v Manitoba that the clinic-funding exclusion violated Charter ss.

⌘ Pending changes to watch

Potential expansion of midwifery scope of practice to include medication abortion

Policy · Not formally initiated in Manitoba; other provinces (BC, Quebec, Saskatchewan) have expanded midwifery scope to include Mifegymiso prescribing.

If Manitoba's College of Midwives expands the midwifery pharmacopeia to include Mifegymiso, medication abortion access would broaden into midwifery-led care settings, particularly benefiting rural and northern areas where midwives are often the primary pregnancy-care providers.

⌘ Key authorities

The Safe Access to Abortion Services Act The Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, CCSM c S4 (SM 2024, c 5) Establishes access zones around clinics, facilities, and provider residences, prohibits specified interfering conduct, and creates criminal and civil remedies — the primary statutory protection for abortion access in Manitoba.
Excluded Services Regulation Excluded Services Regulation, Man Reg 46/93, s 2, item 28 Defines the conditions under which therapeutic abortion is an insured service under the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Plan — now covering hospitals and minister-approved facilities including the Women's Health Clinic.
The Health Services Insurance Act The Health Services Insurance Act, CCSM c H35 The enabling statute for Manitoba's public health insurance plan, under which abortion is funded as an insured medical service.
The Health Care Directives Act The Health Care Directives Act, CCSM c H27 Defines capacity to consent to medical treatment and establishes the rebuttable presumption of capacity at age 16, governing minors' ability to consent to abortion.
Jane Doe 1 v Manitoba Jane Doe 1 v Manitoba, 2004 MBQB 285 (Man QB), aff'd 2005 MBCA 109, leave to appeal to SCC dismissed (31225) The landmark Charter case in which Manitoba's exclusion of clinic abortions from public funding was held to violate ss.

Generated from the structured legal focused deep-research record for MB, 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 Manitoba survey. This document has not been reviewed by a lawyer and should not be used as legal advice.