

PROVINCIAL LEGAL SNAPSHOT

Ontario

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

As of Jul 13, 2026

Research completed Jul 13, 2026

Confidence: high



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Abortion is legal at every stage of pregnancy — Canada has had no criminal abortion law since 1988 — and access in this jurisdiction is broad.

LEGAL LIMIT	None (nationwide)	OFFERED LOCALLY TO	24 weeks (policy)	✓ INSURED SERVICE	Yes	✓ CLINIC ABORTIONS FUNDED	Yes
✓ MIFEGYMISO COVERED FOR ALL	Yes	✓ TELEHEALTH	Available	✓ SAFE-ACCESS ZONES	Law in force	RECIPROCAL BILLING	Excluded
✓ TRAVEL ASSISTANCE	Yes	INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTION	Yes	PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	Not required	MINOR CONSENT	Mature minor common law
PENDING CHANGE	See below						

§ Jurisdiction overview

Abortion in Ontario is fully insured by OHIP at hospitals and clinics, with universal Mifegymiso coverage, buffer-zone protection, and an effective-referral requirement for objecting physicians.

R v Morgentaler, [1988] 1 SCR 30 · Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017, SO 2017, c 19, Sched 1 · Health Canada, Question Period Note: Canada Health Act- Abortion Services (2023)

▣ Funding & coverage

Abortion, both surgical and medication-based, is an insured service under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for all residents with a valid health card.

Ontario Drug Benefit Act, RSO 1990, c O.10; Executive Officer Notice, Ministry of Health (August 2017) · Canada Health Act, RSC 1985, c C-6, ss 9, 12, 18-21 · Health Canada, Question Period Note: Canada Health Act- Abortion Services (2023)

CLINIC VS. HOSPITAL FUNDING

OHIP covers the physician fee at all abortion clinics; facility fees were historically covered at only four IHFA-licensed clinics, creating out-of-pocket charges at others.

TRAVEL & OUT-OF-PROVINCE CARE

Ontario's Northern Health Travel Grant program partially reimburses travel and accommodation costs for northern-Ontario residents who must travel at least 100 km for specialist medical services, including abortion.

● Where services actually are

Approximately 56 points of service including eight dedicated abortion clinics, hospitals in major cities, and telehealth providers are concentrated in southern Ontario, leaving northern and rural communities with minimal local access. Surgical abortion is available in Ontario up to approximately 24 weeks gestation at some clinics and hospitals; this is a service-policy and capacity limit, not a legal one, and later-gestation patients are referred to the United States.

Abortion Access Tracker: Ontario · O Reg 6/18 under Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017, Table 1 · Cabbagetown Women's Clinic website

MINORS

Under Ontario's Health Care Consent Act, 1996, any person—regardless of age—may consent to medical treatment including abortion if they are capable of understanding and appreciating the decision.

SAFE-ACCESS ZONES

The Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017 creates automatic 50-metre safe-access zones around eight clinics, with provision for zones up to 150 metres at other facilities—but no hospital has had its application approved.

▣ Recent changes

May 2024	O Reg 188/24 came into effect, adding misoprostol-mifepristone to the list of drugs Ontario midwives may prescribe.
May 2023	The Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act, 2023 received Royal Assent, replacing the Independent Health Facilities Act and creating a new licensing framework for community clinics including abortion providers.

- Dec 2021** Ontario submitted a Reimbursement Action Plan to Health Canada, committing to eliminate patient charges for insured surgical abortion services.
- Mar 2021** Health Canada levied its first Canada Health Transfer deduction against Ontario (\$53,265 total over 2021-2023) for patient charges at private abortion clinics.
- Jul 2019** Health Canada and Ontario identified patient charges at some private abortion clinics, triggering Canada Health Act compliance reviews and eventual deductions.
- Jun 2019** Criminal Code ss. 287-288 (procuring miscarriage and related offences) were repealed by SC 2019, c 25, removing the last federal criminal provisions addressing abortion.
- May 2019** The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld CPSO's effective-referral policy in *Christian Medical and Dental Society v CPSO*, 2019 ONCA 393.

⌵ Pending changes to watch

Ontario Reimbursement Action Plan implementation

Policy · Ongoing engagement between Ontario Ministry of Health and Health Canada; committed to revisiting the funding framework for insured surgical abortion services in the province.

If fully implemented, all Ontario abortion clinics would receive facility-fee funding from OHIP, eliminating patient charges for insured surgical abortion and resolving Canada Health Act deductions.

R v Van Hee (safe-access zone challenge)

Litigation · Uncertain; as of May 2025, Campaign Life Coalition claimed the case is still ongoing, while earlier reports indicated charges were dropped in October 2022.

If the prosecution proceeds and Van Hee challenges the constitutionality of the Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, an adverse ruling could narrow or strike down safe-access-zone protections.

⌵ Key authorities

R v Morgentaler R v Morgentaler, [1988] 1 SCR 30

Struck down Criminal Code s. 251 as violating s. 7 of the Charter, ending criminal prohibition of abortion in Canada.

R v Morgentaler (1993) R v Morgentaler, [1993] 3 SCR 463

Struck down Nova Scotia's provincial abortion-clinic restriction as ultra vires criminal law, defining the constitutional limits of provincial abortion regulation.

Tremblay v Daigle Tremblay v Daigle, [1989] 2 SCR 530

Held that a fetus has no legal personality and that a father has no right to prevent an abortion.

Christian Medical and Dental Society v CPSO Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada v College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, 2019 ONCA 393

Upheld CPSO's effective-referral requirement as a justified limit on physician religious freedom under s. 1 of the Charter.

Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017 Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017, SO 2017, c 19, Sched 1

Establishes safe-access zones protecting Ontario abortion clinics, provider offices, and residences.

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