

STATE LEGAL SNAPSHOT

Colorado

Abortion law, status, and enforcement — one-page reference

As of Jul 12, 2026

Research completed Jul 12, 2026

Confidence: high



Abortion is **protected by the state constitution**, legal at every stage of pregnancy — **no gestational limit**, currently available.

GESTATIONAL LIMIT	None	✓ AVAILABLE	Yes	✓ MOTHER EXEMPT	Yes	FETAL HOMICIDE LAW	Yes	PERSONHOOD LANGUAGE	No
✓ TELEHEALTH	Allowed	WAITING PERIOD	None	RAPE / INCEST EXCEPTION	N/A	PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	Notification only	✓ SHIELD STATE	Yes
MEDICAID	Broader than Hyde	CIVIL BOUNTY LAW	No	PENDING CHANGE	See below				

§ Jurisdiction overview

Colorado has no gestational limit on abortion; the right is protected by both statute and the state constitution, and abortion is legal at all stages of pregnancy.

Colo. Const. art. II, § 32 · C.R.S. § 25-6-403

☒ Fetal personhood & the internal contradiction

Colorado's treatment of fetal personhood is internally consistent in a way that few states have achieved. The legislature deliberately constructed a regime in 2013 (HB13-1154) and strengthened it in 2022 (RHEA) and 2024 (Amendment 79) that criminalizes third-party violence causing pregnancy loss — the 'unlawful termination of pregnancy' offenses — while simultaneously and explicitly denying that the fetus is a 'person' and exempting both lawful medical care (including abortion) and the pregnant woman herself from prosecution. C.R.S.

C.R.S. § 18-3.5-110 · C.R.S. § 18-3.5-102 · C.R.S. § 25-6-403(3)

MINORS

Colorado requires 48-hour written notice to a parent or guardian before performing an abortion on an unemancipated minor, but does not require parental consent.

SPOUSAL / PATERNAL RIGHTS

Colorado has no statute requiring a spouse's or father's consent or notice before an abortion; the only third-party notice requirement is parental notification for minors.

☒ Penalties in effect

ACTOR	OFFENSE	PENALTY
Pregnant woman	None; expressly exempt from prosecution under C.R.S. § 18-3.5-102(2)	No criminal or civil penalty
Physician or other licensed provider	None for performing lawful abortion; civil penalty only for parental-notification violation (C.R.S. § 13-22-706)	No criminal penalty; civil penalty for parental-notification noncompliance
Third party who causes unlawful termination of pregnancy	Unlawful termination of pregnancy (first through fourth degree), C.R.S. §§ 18-3.5-103 to -106	First degree: class 3 felony (or class 2 if woman dies); second degree: class 4 felony; third degree: class 5 felony; fourth degree: class 6 felony (class 5 for certain repeat or intimate-partner offenders)

☒ Recent changes

Mar 2025	SB25-183, expanding Medicaid to cover abortion care and appropriating nearly \$3 million from the general fund, passed committee and was enacted.
Feb 2025	SB25-129, strengthening Colorado's shield law with clawback civil actions, subpoena safeguards, and prescription-label anonymity for medication-abortion providers, passed committee and was ultimately enacted.

- Nov 2024

Colorado voters approved Amendment 79 by 61.97%, enshrining the right to abortion in the Colorado Constitution (art).
- Apr 2023

Governor Polis signed SB23-188, the interstate shield law, barring Colorado agencies from assisting out-of-state investigations or proceedings concerning legally protected reproductive and gender-affirming health care.
- Apr 2023

Governor Polis signed SB23-189, requiring large-employer health benefit plans to cover the total cost of abortion care without cost-sharing, effective January 1, 2025.
- Jul 2022

Governor Polis issued Executive Order D 2022-013, directing state agencies to protect access to reproductive health care and limit cooperation with out-of-state investigations following the Dobbs decision.
- Apr 2022

Governor Polis signed HB22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA), codifying the fundamental right to abortion in Colorado statute and affirming that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus has no independent or derivative rights.

⌵ Pending changes to watch

Cohen v. Colorado
Litigation · Pending; motion to dismiss filed by defendants. Plaintiffs assert that the parental notification requirement (C.R.S.
If successful, could invalidate Colorado's parental notification requirement for minors, removing the last remaining abortion restriction in Colorado law.

Initiative #226 (2025-2026)
Ballot measure · Title Board set ballot title on February 18, 2026; motion for rehearing filed.
Would amend the Colorado Constitution to provide that 'all human beings, from the moment of fertilization until birth, shall not be deprived of life without due process of law,' potentially establishing fetal personhood and threatening the constitutional right to abortion.

⌵ Key authorities

Colorado Constitution Article II, Section 32 Colo. Const. art. II, § 32
Enshrines the right to abortion in the Colorado Constitution, prohibiting government from denying, impeding, or discriminating against its exercise, and repeals the public-funding ban.

Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) C.R.S. §§ 25-6-401 to -407
Codifies the fundamental statutory right to abortion, defines its scope, and prohibits state and local government interference.

Offenses Against Pregnant Women C.R.S. §§ 18-3.5-101 to -110
Criminalizes third-party violence causing pregnancy loss while expressly exempting medical care and the pregnant woman, and denying fetal personhood.

Colorado Parental Notification Act C.R.S. §§ 13-22-701 to -708
The sole remaining restriction on abortion in Colorado — 48-hour parental notice for unemancipated minors, with judicial bypass.

Interstate Shield Law (SB23-188) C.R.S. §§ 24-116-101 to -102
Protects Colorado providers, patients, and helpers from out-of-state investigations, subpoenas, and professional discipline related to lawful abortion care.

Generated from the structured legal focused deep-research record for CO (research completed 2026-07-12). This snapshot condenses a much larger sourced dataset — full citations, quoted statutory text, and plain-language explanations are in the full Colorado survey. This document has not been reviewed by a lawyer and should not be used as legal advice.