

Connecticut

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

As of Jul 12, 2026

Research completed Jul 12, 2026

Confidence: high



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

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

§ Jurisdiction overview

Abortion is legal in Connecticut until fetal viability and afterward to preserve life or health; the right has been codified in statute since 1990 and reinforced by expansive shield laws.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-602(a)

☒ Fetal personhood & the internal contradiction

Connecticut's legal framework is unusually consistent on fetal personhood: it treats the fetus as a being that can support a civil wrongful-death action once viable, but not as a 'person' for criminal-homicide purposes at any stage. This is not a contradiction but a deliberate calibration: the criminal law does not recognize fetal personhood, so neither abortion nor self-managed abortion can be homicide.

State v. Anonymous, 40 Conn. Supp. 498 (1986) · Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-59c · Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3(1)

MINORS

Connecticut does not require a minor to obtain parental consent or give parental notice before obtaining an abortion; minors under 16 must receive pregnancy information and counseling from a physician or qualified counselor, but parents need not be involved.

SPOUSAL / PATERNAL RIGHTS

Connecticut has never had — and currently does not have — any statute requiring spousal or paternal consent for or notice of abortion.

☒ Penalties in effect

ACTOR	OFFENSE	PENALTY
Pregnant person / patient	None — abortion is not criminalized under Connecticut law, and no penalty applies to the person who obtains or self-manages an abortion	None
Physician	None — abortion is not criminalized; potential licensing discipline for post-viability violation (theoretical only, given breadth of health exception and shield-law protections)	Licensing discipline only (no criminal penalty); shield laws prevent discipline based on out-of-state proceedings
APRN / nurse-midwife / physician assistant	None — same analysis as physician; authorized to perform medication and aspiration abortion under § 19a-602(d)	Licensing discipline only (theoretical); same shield-law protections as physicians
Pharmacist	None — shielded from licensing discipline based on out-of-state proceedings under PA 23-128	None; shield-law protections under PA 23-128, § 2
Nurses, clinic staff, and counselors	None	None; conscience exemption permits refusal to participate (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 19-13-D54(f))

Recent changes

- Jun 2025

Attorney General Tong joins 22-state coalition reminding hospitals of their obligation under EMTALA to provide emergency abortion care when necessary to stabilize a pregnant patient, following the Trump administration's rescission of Biden-era EMTALA guidance.
- Jun 2025

Governor Lamont signs Public Act 25-28 (HB 7213), codifying minors' right to consent to contraceptive and pregnancy-related care — including abortion — without parental consent or notification, and protecting the confidentiality of that care.
- Nov 2024

Connecticut Abortion Legal Hotline launched as a partnership between Attorney General Tong, Reproductive Equity Now, and Connecticut law firms, providing free and confidential legal guidance to patients, providers, and helpers.
- Jun 2023

Governor Lamont signs Public Act 23-128, expanding shield-law protections to prevent professional licensing discipline, pharmacy discipline, adverse credentialing/privileging actions, and adverse professional-liability-insurance actions based on out-of-state reproductive-health-care-related proceedings.
- Jan 2023

Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center lawsuit challenging Connecticut's limited-services-pregnancy-center advertising law (Conn. Gen. Stat.
- Jun 2022

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decided by U.S. Supreme Court, overturning Roe v. Wade.
- May 2022

Governor Lamont signs Public Act 22-19 (Reproductive Freedom Defense Act).

Pending changes to watch

S.J. No. 35 — The Equality Amendment
Legislation · Resolution proposing a state constitutional amendment concerning discrimination on the basis of sex under the equal protection clause, including discrimination based on pregnancy and 'preventing, initiating, continuing or terminating a pregnancy.' Passed the Government Administration and Elections Committee in March 2025.
If enacted, would enshrine the right to reproductive care — including abortion — in the Connecticut Constitution as a matter of equal protection, making it far more difficult for a future legislature to restrict abortion access.

Multi-state EMTALA litigation and federal guidance uncertainty
Litigation · The Trump administration rescinded Biden-era EMTALA guidance in May 2025.
Could affect whether Connecticut hospitals must provide emergency abortion care under federal law even where state law permits it.

Key authorities

- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-602 — Core abortion right and viability limit**

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-602

The foundational statute: codifies the patient's sole decision-making right pre-viability, the post-viability life/health exception, and the categories of providers authorized to perform abortion.
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-601 — Minor counseling requirement**

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-601

The only pre-abortion procedural requirement in Connecticut, requiring pregnancy information and counseling for minors without mandating parental involvement.
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-912 — Definition of 'abortion'**

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-912

Defines 'abortion' to include medication abortion and serves as the cross-referenced definition for the abortion chapter.
- Public Act 22-19 — Reproductive Freedom Defense Act (Shield Law)**

Public Act No. 22-19 (2022)

The nation's first comprehensive abortion shield law, creating civil remedies against out-of-state judgments, prohibiting state cooperation with interstate investigations, and expanding provider categories.
- Public Act 23-128 — Provider licensing and insurance shield**

Public Act No. 23-128 (2023)

Extends shield protections to licensing, credentialing, privileging, and professional-liability insurance, closing gaps left by PA 22-19.

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