

STATE LEGAL SNAPSHOT

Louisiana

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

As of Jul 12, 2026

Research completed Jul 12, 2026

Confidence: high



● Abortion is banned at every stage of pregnancy — not currently available.

GESTATIONAL LIMIT	Total ban	AVAILABLE	No	✓ MOTHER EXEMPT	Yes	FETAL HOMICIDE LAW	Yes	PERSONHOOD LANGUAGE	Yes
TELEHEALTH	Not allowed	WAITING PERIOD	72 hours	RAPE / INCEST EXCEPTION	No	PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	Consent one parent		
SHIELD STATE	No	MEDICAID	Hyde only	CIVIL BOUNTY LAW	No	PENDING CHANGE	See below		

§ Jurisdiction overview

Louisiana prohibits nearly all abortion from fertilization with criminal penalties for providers; pregnant women are expressly exempt from criminal liability.

La. R.S. 40:1061(C) · La. Const. Art. I, § 20.1 · La. R.S. 14:87.7

☒ Fetal personhood & the internal contradiction

Louisiana law is profoundly internally contradictory on fetal personhood, and these contradictions are explicitly statutory rather than accidental. The criminal code defines a 'person' as a human being from fertilization and implantation (La. R.S. 14:2(A)(7)), and the insurance code declares the unborn child 'a legal person... entitled to the right to life from conception' (La. R.S. 22:1014(A)(4)). The feticide statute treats the killing of an unborn child at any stage as a crime of violence akin to homicide. IVF embryos are juridical persons with a right not to be destroyed.

La. R.S. 14:32.5(A) · La. R.S. 14:2(11) · La. R.S. 14:2(A)(7)

MINORS

An unemancipated minor under 18 must obtain notarized consent from one parent, guardian, or tutor, or secure a judicial bypass order.

SPOUSAL / PATERNAL RIGHTS

Louisiana has no statute requiring spousal consent or notice for an abortion.

☒ Penalties in effect

ACTOR	OFFENSE	PENALTY
Physician performing an abortion	Criminal abortion (La. R.S. 14:87.7)	Imprisonment at hard labor for 1-10 years; fine of \$10,000-\$100,000; professional discipline including license revocation
Physician providing medication abortion	Criminal abortion by means of abortion-inducing drugs (La. R.S. 14:87.9)	1-5 years hard labor + \$5K-\$50K fine; 5-10 years + \$10K-\$75K if death/serious injury to woman; 15-50 years + \$15K-\$100K if woman under 18
Non-physician performing medication abortion	Criminal abortion by means of abortion-inducing drugs (La. R.S. 14:87.9)	1-5 years hard labor + \$5K-\$50K fine; plus potential unauthorized-practice penalties
Any person facilitating abortion with pills (delivering, mailing, dispensing)	Criminal abortion by means of abortion-inducing drugs (La. R.S. 14:87.9); civil liability (La. R.S. 9:2800.12)	1-5 years hard labor + \$5K-\$50K fine; civil statutory damages of \$100,000+
Pregnant woman	None under abortion statutes (expressly exempt); unresolved exposure under controlled-substances law	No criminal penalty under abortion statutes; potential unauthorized possession of Schedule IV substance (up to 5 years) is unresolved

Recent changes

- Jun 2025

Act 383 (HB 575) signed into law as the Justice for Victims of Abortion Drug Dealers Act, expanding civil liability for substantially facilitating abortion with statutory damages of at least \$100,000, while exempting the mother, licensed healthcare providers, and pharmacists.
- Jun 2025

Louisiana House Criminal Justice Committee rejects HB 215, the latest bill to add rape and incest exceptions, the fourth such rejection since Dobbs.
- Jan 2025

Louisiana grand jury indicts New York physician Dr.
- Oct 2024

Act 246 (SB 276) takes effect, adding mifepristone and misoprostol to Schedule IV of Louisiana's Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, the first such classification by any state.
- May 2024

Louisiana legislature again rejects rape and incest exceptions to the abortion ban.
- May 2023

Louisiana House Criminal Justice Committee rejects bills to add rape and incest exceptions to the abortion ban.
- Aug 2022

Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal lifts the TRO; the Louisiana Supreme Court denies review. Trigger bans take full effect.

Pending changes to watch

Louisiana v. FDA (No. 6:25-cv-01491, W.D. La.)
Litigation · Filed October 6, 2025; stayed by district court in April 2026 pending FDA safety review of mifepristone
If successful, could reinstate nationwide the FDA's pre-2023 in-person dispensing requirement for mifepristone, effectively ending telehealth medication abortion across the country.

State of Louisiana v. Margaret Carpenter (18th JDC, West Baton Rouge Parish)
Litigation · Indictment issued January 2025; extradition refused by New York; interstate conflict unresolved
Will test whether a state with a near-total ban may enforce its criminal abortion law against an out-of-state physician in a shield-law state. Resolution could determine the viability of shield laws nationwide.

Constitutional challenge to Act 246 (mifepristone/misoprostol Schedule IV classification)
Litigation · Petition filed in Louisiana state court (19th JDC) in January 2025; pending
A successful challenge would strike down the Schedule IV classification of mifepristone and misoprostol, potentially restoring their status as non-controlled prescription drugs in Louisiana.

Key authorities

Human Life Protection Act La. R.S. 40:1061
The primary trigger ban; prohibits all abortion from fertilization with a life/health exception; the principal criminal and civil enforcement vehicle.

Criminal Abortion (Second Trigger Ban) La. R.S. 14:87.7
Second trigger ban: flat prohibition on abortion with penalty of 1-10 years hard labor and \$10K-\$100K fine; contains the express mother exemption.

Criminal Abortion by Means of Abortion-Inducing Drugs La. R.S. 14:87.9
Separately criminalizes medication abortion with specific penalties; provides mother exemption; the basis of the Carpenter indictment.

Schedule IV Controlled Substance Classification La. R.S. 40:964, as amended by Act 246 (2024)
First-in-the-nation classification of mifepristone and misoprostol as Schedule IV controlled substances; creates tension with mother-exemption statutes.

Justice for Victims of Abortion Drug Dealers Act La. R.S. 9:2800.12, as amended by Act 383 (2025)
Creates civil liability of \$100,000+ for anyone who substantially facilitates an abortion by providing abortion-inducing drugs; exempts the mother.

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