

STATE LEGAL SNAPSHOT

Missouri

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

As of Jul 12, 2026

Research completed Jul 12, 2026
Confidence: medium



● Abortion is **banned after fetal viability** — currently available.

GESTATIONAL LIMIT	None	✓ AVAILABLE	Yes	✓ MOTHER EXEMPT	Yes	FETAL HOMICIDE LAW	Yes	PERSONHOOD LANGUAGE	Yes
TELEHEALTH	Not allowed	WAITING PERIOD	None	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

Abortion is constitutionally protected through fetal viability by Amendment 3 (2024); nearly all statutory abortion restrictions have been struck down by a Jackson County court as unconstitutional.

Mo. Const. art. I, § 36 · Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood Great Plains v. Missouri, Case No. 2416-CV31931 (Jackson County Cir. Ct., June 18, 2026) · Mo. Rev. Stat. § 188.017

☒ Fetal personhood & the internal contradiction

Missouri's legal treatment of the unborn contains significant internal contradictions. Section 1.205 declares that life begins at conception and that unborn children at every stage are entitled to all the rights available to other persons. Missouri courts have applied this to treat a fetus as a homicide victim, assault victim, and wrongful-death subject — all from conception, without regard to viability.

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 1.205.1 · State v. Knapp, 843 S.W.2d 345 (Mo. banc 1992) · Mo. Rev. Stat. § 188.015(11)

MINORS

Missouri requires written consent from one parent or guardian before a minor under 18 may obtain an abortion; a custodial parent must also be notified in writing.

SPOUSAL / PATERNAL RIGHTS

Missouri's 1974 spousal consent provision was struck down in Planned Parenthood v. Danforth, 428 U.S. 52 (1976), and has not been reenacted; no current spousal notice or consent requirement exists.

☒ Penalties in effect

ACTOR	OFFENSE	PENALTY
Physician (pre-Amendment 3 trigger ban, now enjoined)	Knowingly performing or inducing an abortion in violation of § 188.017	Class B felony: 5-15 years imprisonment; license suspension or revocation
Physician (8-week ban, now enjoined)	Performing or inducing an abortion at 8 weeks gestational age or later	Class B felony: 5-15 years imprisonment; license suspension or revocation
Physician (viability ban, now enjoined)	Performing abortion of viable unborn child in violation of § 188.030	Class D felony: minimum 1 year imprisonment, fine \$10,000-\$50,000; license suspension or revocation
Any person (general abortion violations, enforceable)	Knowingly performing, inducing, or aiding abortion contrary to §§ 188.010-188.085	Class A misdemeanor: up to 1 year imprisonment and/or fine up to \$2,000
Physician (partial-birth abortion/infanticide)	Causing death of living infant by overt act when infant is partially born or born	Class A felony: 10-30 years or life imprisonment; exempts legal abortion where act causing death occurs before partial birth

☒ Recent changes

- Jun 2026 Judge Zhang issued final judgment permanently striking down Missouri's trigger ban, gestational-age bans, 72-hour waiting period, state-scripted informed consent, TRAP laws, admitting-privileges, complication-plan, pathology, telemedicine ban, and reporting requirements as unconstitutional under Amendment 3.

- May 2026

The Missouri legislature passed the 'Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act' (HB 2294/SB 1221), sending it to Governor Mike Kehoe.
- Jan 2026

A 10-day bench trial began in Jackson County Circuit Court before Judge Zhang on the constitutionality of approximately 40 Missouri abortion statutes and regulations under Amendment 3.
- Jul 2025

Judge Zhang reimposed preliminary injunctions against the trigger ban and abortion restrictions under the corrected standard. Abortion became legally accessible again.
- May 2025

The Missouri Supreme Court vacated both preliminary injunctions (December 2024 and February 2025), holding that Judge Zhang applied an incorrect standard.
- Dec 2024

Jackson County Circuit Judge Jerri Zhang issued a preliminary injunction blocking Missouri's trigger ban and other abortion restrictions as unconstitutional under Amendment 3.
- Nov 2024

Missouri voters approved Amendment 3 (Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative), adding Article I, Section 36 to the Missouri Constitution and establishing a fundamental right to reproductive freedom including abortion care.

⌵ Pending changes to watch

Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood Great Plains v. Missouri (Appeal)
Litigation · Jackson County Circuit Court entered final judgment on June 18, 2026; Missouri Attorney General announced expedited appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court
If the Missouri Supreme Court reverses, the trigger ban and most abortion restrictions could be reinstated; if affirmed, the constitutional framework under Amendment 3 would be solidified.

2026 Missouri Amendment 3 (Prohibit Abortion and Gender Transition Procedures for Minors Amendment)
Ballot measure · Placed on the November 3, 2026 ballot by the Missouri General Assembly as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment
If approved, would repeal Article I, Section 36 and prohibit abortions except in cases of medical emergency, fetal anomaly, rape, or incest — with rape and incest exceptions capped at 12 weeks.

Right By You v. Missouri (Parental Consent Challenge)
Litigation · Filed April 30, 2025 in Jackson County Circuit Court; challenges parental consent requirement and minor-aiding liability under Amendment 3
Could strike down Missouri's parental consent requirement and civil liability for aiding a minor to obtain an abortion.

⌵ Key authorities

Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative (Amendment 3) Mo. Const. art. I, § 36
The operative constitutional text governing abortion in Missouri, establishing a fundamental right to reproductive freedom including abortion through viability.

Right to Life of the Unborn Child Act (Trigger Ban) Mo. Rev. Stat. § 188.017
Missouri's near-total abortion ban, enacted in 2019 and triggered by Dobbs; now permanently enjoined under Amendment 3.

Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act (Gestational-Age Bans) Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 188.026, 188.056, 188.057, 188.058
2019 framework including bans at 8, 14, 18, and 20 weeks with extensive legislative findings; now enjoined.

Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood Great Plains v. Missouri Case No. 2416-CV31931 (Jackson County Cir. Ct., June 18, 2026)
The controlling trial court decision that struck down most of Missouri's abortion restrictions as unconstitutional under Amendment 3.

Definitions and Physician-Only Requirement Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 188.015, 188.020
Defines key terms and establishes that only licensed physicians may perform abortions — upheld under Amendment 3.

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