

STATE LEGAL SNAPSHOT

Washington

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	Yes	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

Washington's Reproductive Privacy Act guarantees a fundamental right to abortion pre-viability and post-viability to protect life or health, with no other gestational limits, waiting periods, or mandatory counseling.

RCW 9.02.110 · RCW 9.02.100 · 2022 c 65 (Engrossed House Bill 1851)

☒ Fetal personhood & the internal contradiction

Washington's legal treatment of fetal personhood is internally inconsistent in some respects but carefully managed to avoid direct conflict. The manslaughter statute (RCW 9A.32.060(1)(b)) treats the intentional killing of an 'unborn quick child' by a third party as a class A felony — the same severity as killing a born person — yet the same code, at RCW 9.02.100, declares that every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to terminate a pregnancy before viability for any reason, and after viability to protect life or health.

RCW 9A.32.060(1)(b)

MINORS

Washington imposes no parental consent or notification requirement for minors seeking abortion; the state's mature minor doctrine and general minor consent laws apply.

SPOUSAL / PATERNAL RIGHTS

Washington has no statute requiring spousal or paternal consent or notice for abortion.

☒ Penalties in effect

ACTOR	OFFENSE	PENALTY
Physician, PA, ARNP, or other provider performing unauthorized abortion	Unauthorized abortion (RCW 9.02.120)	Class C felony: up to 5 years imprisonment and/or up to \$10,000 fine; possible license revocation under Uniform Disciplinary Act
Pregnant individual	None — expressly exempted from prosecution	No penalty; RCW 9.02.100(4) declares no individual shall fear prosecution for self-managing abortion; RCW 9.02.120 applies only to person who 'performs an abortion on another person'
Clinic staff assisting lawful abortion	None	RCW 9.02.110 expressly authorizes health care providers to assist; no penalty for assisting a lawful abortion
Third party who kills unborn quick child	First-degree manslaughter (RCW 9A.32.060(1)(b))	Class A felony: maximum life imprisonment and/or up to \$50,000 fine
Persons interfering with clinic access	Interference with health care facility (RCW 9A.50.020)	Gross misdemeanor: up to 364 days imprisonment and/or up to \$5,000 fine; civil liability for damages and injunctive relief under RCW 9A.50.040-.050

Recent changes

- Jun 2025** 2025 state budget enacted, cutting \$8.5 million (55%) from the Abortion Access Project, the largest reduction in state abortion-access funding in Washington history.
- Jun 2025** SB 5632 (2025 c 58) enacted, strengthening the Shield Law by adding protections for confidentiality of records relevant to other states' enforcement of anti-abortion laws, and making technical updates to abortion statutes (e.g., 'advanced practice registered nurse' terminology).
- Jan 2024** Prohibition on cost-sharing for abortion coverage took effect for most state-regulated health plans under RCW 48.43.073 as amended by SB 5242 (2023 c 194).
- Apr 2023** Washington's Shield Law (SB 5487, 2023 c 193) was enacted, creating Chapter 7.115 RCW to protect providers, patients, and helpers from out-of-state civil and criminal actions related to reproductive and gender-affirming care lawful in Washington.
- Apr 2023** Governor Inslee announced the purchase of a three-year supply of mifepristone (30,000 doses for \$1.275 million) as a safeguard against potential federal restrictions on medication abortion.
- Jun 2022** Governor Jay Inslee issued a directive prohibiting the Washington State Patrol from cooperating with out-of-state investigations and legal actions concerning reproductive health care lawful in Washington.
- Jun 2022** U.S. Supreme Court decided *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Washington's Reproductive Privacy Act remained in full effect as independent state law.

Pending changes to watch

2026 supplemental budget — Abortion Access Project funding restoration

Legislation · Proposed; Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates and Pro-Choice Washington are urging the legislature to restore \$8.5 million in the 2026 supplemental budget

If restored, the funding would reverse the 55% cut to safety-net abortion provider grants, supporting clinics to maintain hours, staffing, and services for in-state and out-of-state patients.

2026 legislation to facilitate distribution of state mifepristone stockpile

Legislation · Enacted in 2026 session (2026 c 14?); law now allows easier distribution of the state's stockpile to providers

The state's 30,000-dose mifepristone stockpile (purchased 2023, expiring) can now be distributed to licensed health care providers, potentially expanding medication abortion access.

Cedar Park Assembly of God v. Kreidler (church challenge to abortion insurance coverage mandate)

Litigation · Ongoing federal litigation; a Washington church challenges the state's requirement that health plans covering maternity care must also cover abortion, arguing violation of religious freedom

If successful, the challenge could limit or exempt certain religious employers from the abortion-coverage mandate under RCW 48.43.073, but would not affect the requirement for individuals to access coverage directly through insurers.

Key authorities

Reproductive Privacy Act — Public Policy Declaration RCW 9.02.100

Declares the fundamental right to reproductive privacy and exempts pregnant individuals from prosecution.

Right to Have and Provide Abortion RCW 9.02.110

Operative provision guaranteeing the right to abortion before viability and after viability to protect life or health, and authorizing a broad range of providers.

Unauthorized Abortion — Penalty RCW 9.02.120

Establishes the class C felony for performing an unauthorized abortion, defining the outer boundary of lawful conduct.

Definitions RCW 9.02.170

Defines key terms including abortion, viability, pregnancy (implantation-based), and health care provider; determines the scope of regulated conduct.

Shield Law RCW Ch. 7.115

Protects providers, patients, and helpers from out-of-state investigations and legal actions related to reproductive health care lawful in Washington.

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