Procedural Protections in Reproductive Health Care Conscience Laws

This dataset identifies the procedural protections established by laws and regulations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia that protect the conscience rights of health care providers in the context of reproductive health care services, with a particular emphasis on immunity from civil liability and limitations on provider rights in cases where patients are likely to be harmed. This dataset captures the relevant features of laws in effect as of December 17, 2018. You can see additional maps and tables by visiting www.LawAtlas.org.

**Immunity from Civil Liability**

There were 37 jurisdictions as of December 17, 2018 that explicitly protect individuals or institutions from civil liability for their conscience-based refusal to participate in abortion.


**Protection of Patients in Cases of Emergency**

Thirteen jurisdictions limit providers’ conscience rights if they refuse to participate in abortion when the patient is seeking emergency care or her life is in danger.

Jurisdictions: 13 (AL, CA, ID, IL, IA, KY, LA, MD, NV, OK, PA, SC, TX)

**Protection of Patients’ Right to Informed Consent**

Illinois is the only state with abortion-specific conscience laws that explicitly require that a refusing provider inform their patient about legal treatment options.

Jurisdictions: 1 (IL)