Abortion Waiting Period Requirements

Mandatory waiting period laws require an individual seeking abortion to wait a specified time period, usually between 24 to 72 hours, after receiving mandatory counseling before they can obtain the procedure. The mandatory counseling that must occur prior to obtaining an abortion goes beyond the customary informed consent that is generally required for all medical procedures, and sometimes includes misleading information regarding abortion. This dataset is longitudinal, displaying laws regulating abortion waiting period requirements in effect from December 1, 2018 through December 1, 2019. Learn more at www.lawatlas.org.

State Requires a Waiting Period

Laws in 31 states require a waiting period (ranging from 18 to 72 hours) prior to obtaining an abortion.

Jurisdictions: 31 (AL, AR, AZ, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MI, MO, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, OH, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV, WI)

State Requires Mandatory Ultrasound

Laws in 15 states require patients to receive an ultrasound prior to obtaining an abortion.

Jurisdictions: 15 (AL, AR, AZ, FL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, TX, VA, WI)

Reversal of Medication Abortion Communication

As of December 1, 2019, six states require information on reversing the effects of medication abortion to be communicated to the patient verbally. Two of these six states require this communication to be held in person. Only two states required this information to be communicated verbally as of December 1, 2018, and each required that this be done in person.

Jurisdictions in 2019: 6 (AR, KY, NE, ND, OK, SD)

Jurisdictions in 2018: 2 (AR, SD)