

Wondering about the Texas Abortion Ban? Here's what you need to know.

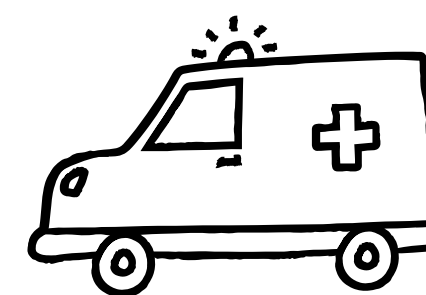
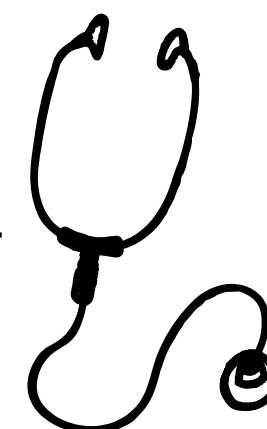
What exactly is an abortion?

Abortion is defined medically as the expulsion of a fetus from the uterus before the fetus can survive outside the uterus. ([Britannica](#), [Yale Medicine](#), [World Health Organization](#))

Abortion is defined by the Texas Legislature as “the act of using or prescribing an instrument, a drug, a medicine, or any other substance, device, or means with the intent to cause the death of an unborn child of a woman known to be pregnant. The term does not include birth control devices or oral contraceptives.”

([Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 245.002](#))

1. In Texas, an abortion may be performed only by a physician. ([Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 171.003](#))
2. In Texas, a physician only may perform an abortion if he or she determines with reasonable medical judgment that the patient has a life-threatening medical condition that puts the patient at risk of death or at risk of impairment of a major bodily function. ([Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 170A.002](#))
3. Major bodily functions are defined in Texas law and include, but are not limited to: functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. ([Texas Labor Code Sec. 21.002 \(11-a\)](#))
4. The Texas abortion ban contains no exception for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.
5. The Texas abortion ban contains no exception for pregnancies in which the fetus has an abnormality incompatible with life outside the uterus.
6. The conditions of ectopic pregnancy and previable premature rupture of membranes (PPROM) are affirmative defenses to liability in a civil action brought against a physician or health care provider for a violation of the Texas law banning abortions. ([Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Sec. 74.552](#))
7. A physician who performs an abortion in Texas after detecting a fetal heartbeat is subject to criminal prosecution, a revocation of their medical license, and a civil penalty of \$100,000. ([Texas Health and Safety Code Secs. 170A.005, 170A.005, 170A.007](#))
8. Any person, other than an officer or employee of a Texas state or local governmental entity, may sue any person who performs or induces an illegal abortion or knowingly aids or abets an illegal abortion. ([Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 171.208](#))
9. A patient who undergoes an abortion in Texas cannot be punished for obtaining the abortion. ([Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 170A.003](#))
10. Texans can legally obtain abortion assistance via tele-health, the internet, or by traveling to another state.



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