

RFC ONE-PAGER

Abortion 101: Resources for Providers

YOUR ABORTION RIGHTS:

- As a result of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the legality of abortion care depends more than ever on your state of residence.
- Whether you practice in a state where abortion is legal or one where it is heavily restricted, **resources are available** to support you as an abortion provider.
- Even with the patchwork of state laws, federal law still has key rights and obligations that may apply to you. These include your obligations to provide **lifesaving abortion care** and to maintain the privacy of your patients’ **health care data**.
- While treating abortion patients, you may encounter medically-unnecessary obstruction and disinformation, **even in states where abortion is legal**. This includes fraudulent anti-abortion so-called “crisis pregnancy centers” coercing your patients, targeted regulations such as “TRAP” laws, excessive counseling, waiting period, and reporting requirements, and even clashes between states’ criminal penalties and protective shield laws.
- **Thank you for the care you provide in our communities**, even with the threats and uncertainty you face. We will continue to fight for your right to act in the best interests of your patients, free from political interference.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES:

- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Provider Resources.
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Patient Counseling Guide.
- Planned Parenthood Resources for Health Professionals.
- Abortion Finder State Guides.
- Abortion Defense Network.
- If/When/How Repro Legal Helpline.
- Guttmacher Abortion Policies Map.
- KFF Abortion Clinician and Facility Regulation Tracker.

LEARN MORE:

- Read more about your obligations under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) here.
- Read more about your obligations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) here.

DISCLAIMER:

These documents aim to provide interested parties with a comprehensive overview of relevant resources for their consideration. A resource’s inclusion here does **NOT** imply official endorsement by the Reproductive Freedom Caucus, neither can the Caucus verify the accuracy or timeliness of all information accessed from external sources.

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ABORTION Q&A:

Worried about legal retaliation for providing care?

As several incidents of retaliation for providing abortion care are making their way through the courts, **your concerns are valid**. Whether you want to share your story, advocate for new laws, or seek legal recourse, resources exist to help you, including those in this document. Here are some of your federal rights and obligations as a provider. We will continue to fight for your rights, autonomy, and safety.

- Under EMTALA, your patients are entitled to stabilizing care in a medical emergency, whatever their pregnancy or financial status or type of care they need. **This includes abortion.**
- Certain reproductive health records are protected under HIPAA. You and your employer are largely **prohibited from sharing patient medical data with law enforcement.**
- Depending on the laws of the state in which you live and practice, **the legality of the care you are trained to provide may vary.** The Constitution protects your right to legal counsel, whether or not you are currently facing legal threats for acting in the best interests of your patient.

Concerned for your safety?

Threats against abortion providers are not new and have increased in recent years. **You or your colleagues may have experienced this firsthand.** Since the Trump administration pardoned violent anti-abortion extremists and pledged to reduce enforcement of the FACE Act, that risk is even greater.

- Outside of the FACE Act, federal law protects you against many threats of violence, harassment, and extortion. **Your state laws may also offer you and your workplace further protections.**
- You deserve complete enforcement of federal and state protections. In the current climate, you may also wish to consult reputable non-governmental organizations for further safety resources.

Helping a patient avoid dangerous disinformation?

Some facilities, including many so-called “crisis pregnancy centers” claim to provide legitimate health care but instead use deceptive practices to coerce or prevent patients from knowing their options.

- **Attempting to use misinformation to interfere with access to abortion care is unfortunately encouraged and funded by Republican politicians in many states.** Patients deserve to hear the truth from providers like you, who will share comprehensive, unbiased medical information. Encourage your patients to look for warning signs and double check with trusted sources.

Looking to share your story?

Stories like yours make clear why reproductive health care access is so important. **You should never have to recount your or your patients’ most difficult moments to compel action from your government.** If you choose to, we are here to listen, to amplify your voice, and to fight with and for you.

- Share your story and thoughts with House Democrats here or at the email address below.

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