

UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION AMENDMENTS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the information that is required to be given to ensure that a woman gives informed consent before the performance of an abortion procedure.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires specified medical personnel to inform a woman seeking an abortion of the possibility that a medication-induced abortion may be able to be reversed; and
- ▶ requires the Department of Health to include in its published, printed materials an explanation that medication-induced abortions may be able to be reversed.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-7-305, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 362

76-7-305.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 362

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **76-7-305** is amended to read:



28 **76-7-305. Informed consent requirements for abortion -- 72-hour wait mandatory**
29 **-- Exceptions.**

30 (1) A person may not perform an abortion, unless, before performing the abortion, the
31 physician who will perform the abortion obtains a voluntary and informed written consent from
32 the woman on whom the abortion is performed, that is consistent with:

33 (a) Section 8.08 of the American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics,
34 Current Opinions; and

35 (b) the provisions of this section.

36 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (9), consent to an abortion is voluntary and
37 informed only if:

38 (a) at least 72 hours before the abortion, the physician who is to perform the abortion,
39 the referring physician, a physician, a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, advanced practice
40 registered nurse, certified nurse midwife, genetic counselor, or physician's assistant, in a
41 face-to-face consultation in any location in the state, orally informs the woman:

42 (i) consistent with Subsection (3)(a), of:

43 (A) the nature of the proposed abortion procedure;

44 (B) specifically how the procedure described in Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A) will affect the
45 fetus; [~~and~~]

46 (C) the risks and alternatives to an abortion procedure or treatment; and

47 (D) the possibility that a medication-induced abortion may be reversed, but time is of
48 the essence;

49 (ii) of the probable gestational age and a description of the development of the unborn
50 child at the time the abortion would be performed;

51 (iii) of the medical risks associated with carrying her child to term; and

52 (iv) if the abortion is to be performed on an unborn child who is at least 20 weeks
53 gestational age:

54 (A) that substantial medical evidence from studies concludes that an unborn child who
55 is at least 20 weeks gestational age may be capable of experiencing pain during an abortion
56 procedure; and

57 (B) the measures that shall be taken in accordance with Section [76-7-308.5](#);

58 (b) at least 72 hours prior to the abortion the physician who is to perform the abortion,

59 the referring physician, or, as specifically delegated by either of those physicians, a physician, a
60 registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, certified nurse-midwife, advanced practice registered
61 nurse, clinical laboratory technologist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical
62 social worker, genetic counselor, or certified social worker orally, in a face-to-face consultation
63 in any location in the state, informs the pregnant woman that:

64 (i) the Department of Health, in accordance with Section [76-7-305.5](#), publishes printed
65 material and an informational video that:

66 (A) provides medically accurate information regarding all abortion procedures that may
67 be used;

68 (B) describes the gestational stages of an unborn child; and

69 (C) includes information regarding public and private services and agencies available
70 to assist her through pregnancy, at childbirth, and while the child is dependent, including
71 private and agency adoption alternatives;

72 (ii) the printed material and a viewing of or a copy of the informational video shall be
73 made available to her, free of charge, on the Department of Health's website;

74 (iii) medical assistance benefits may be available for prenatal care, childbirth, and
75 neonatal care, and that more detailed information on the availability of that assistance is
76 contained in the printed materials and the informational video published by the Department of
77 Health;

78 (iv) except as provided in Subsection (3)(b):

79 (A) the father of the unborn child is legally required to assist in the support of her
80 child, even if he has offered to pay for the abortion; and

81 (B) the Office of Recovery Services within the Department of Human Services will
82 assist her in collecting child support; and

83 (v) she has the right to view an ultrasound of the unborn child, at no expense to her,
84 upon her request;

85 (c) the information required to be provided to the pregnant woman under Subsection
86 (2)(a) is also provided by the physician who is to perform the abortion, in a face-to-face
87 consultation, prior to performance of the abortion, unless the attending or referring physician is
88 the individual who provides the information required under Subsection (2)(a);

89 (d) a copy of the printed materials published by the Department of Health has been

90 provided to the pregnant woman;

91 (e) the informational video, published by the Department of Health, has been provided
92 to the pregnant woman in accordance with Subsection (4); and

93 (f) the pregnant woman has certified in writing, prior to the abortion, that the
94 information required to be provided under Subsections (2)(a) through (e) was provided, in
95 accordance with the requirements of those subsections.

96 (3) (a) The alternatives required to be provided under Subsection (2)(a)(i) include:

97 (i) a description of adoption services, including private and agency adoption methods;

98 and

99 (ii) a statement that it is legal for adoptive parents to financially assist in pregnancy and
100 birth expenses.

101 (b) The information described in Subsection (2)(b)(iv) may be omitted from the
102 information required to be provided to a pregnant woman under this section if the woman is
103 pregnant as the result of rape.

104 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person described in
105 Subsection (2)(a) from, when providing the information described in Subsection (2)(a)(iv),
106 informing a woman of the person's own opinion regarding the capacity of an unborn child to
107 experience pain.

108 (4) When the informational video described in Section [76-7-305.5](#) is provided to a
109 pregnant woman, the person providing the information shall:

110 (a) request that the woman view the video at that time or at another specifically
111 designated time and location; or

112 (b) if the woman chooses not to view the video at a time described in Subsection (4)(a),
113 inform the woman that she can access the video on the Department of Health's website.

114 (5) When a serious medical emergency compels the performance of an abortion, the
115 physician shall inform the woman prior to the abortion, if possible, of the medical indications
116 supporting the physician's judgment that an abortion is necessary.

117 (6) If an ultrasound is performed on a woman before an abortion is performed, the
118 person who performs the ultrasound, or another qualified person, shall:

119 (a) inform the woman that the ultrasound images will be simultaneously displayed in a
120 manner to permit her to:

- 121 (i) view the images, if she chooses to view the images; or
122 (ii) not view the images, if she chooses not to view the images;
123 (b) simultaneously display the ultrasound images in order to permit the woman to:
124 (i) view the images, if she chooses to view the images; or
125 (ii) not view the images, if she chooses not to view the images;
126 (c) inform the woman that, if she desires, the person performing the ultrasound, or
127 another qualified person shall provide a detailed description of the ultrasound images,
128 including:
129 (i) the dimensions of the unborn child;
130 (ii) the presence of cardiac activity in the unborn child, if present and viewable; and
131 (iii) the presence of external body parts or internal organs, if present and viewable; and
132 (d) provide the detailed description described in Subsection (6)(c), if the woman
133 requests it.
134 (7) The information described in Subsections (2), (3), (4), and (6) is not required to be
135 provided to a pregnant woman under this section if the abortion is performed for a reason
136 described in:
137 (a) Subsection 76-7-302(3)(b)(i), if the treating physician and one other physician
138 concur, in writing, that the abortion is necessary to avert:
139 (i) the death of the woman on whom the abortion is performed; or
140 (ii) a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function
141 of the woman on whom the abortion is performed; or
142 (b) Subsection 76-7-302(3)(b)(ii).
143 (8) In addition to the criminal penalties described in this part, a physician who violates
144 the provisions of this section:
145 (a) is guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 58-67-102 or 58-68-102;
146 and
147 (b) shall be subject to:
148 (i) suspension or revocation of the physician's license for the practice of medicine and
149 surgery in accordance with Section 58-67-401 or 58-68-401; and
150 (ii) administrative penalties in accordance with Section 58-67-402 or 58-68-402.
151 (9) A physician is not guilty of violating this section for failure to furnish any of the

152 information described in Subsection (2), or for failing to comply with Subsection (6), if:

153 (a) the physician can demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the
154 physician reasonably believed that furnishing the information would have resulted in a severely
155 adverse effect on the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman;

156 (b) in the physician's professional judgment, the abortion was necessary to avert:

157 (i) the death of the woman on whom the abortion is performed; or

158 (ii) a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function
159 of the woman on whom the abortion is performed;

160 (c) the pregnancy was the result of rape or rape of a child, as defined in Sections
161 76-5-402 and 76-5-402.1;

162 (d) the pregnancy was the result of incest, as defined in Subsection 76-5-406(10) and
163 Section 76-7-102; or

164 (e) at the time of the abortion, the pregnant woman was 14 years of age or younger.

165 (10) A physician who complies with the provisions of this section and Section
166 76-7-304.5 may not be held civilly liable to the physician's patient for failure to obtain
167 informed consent under Section 78B-3-406.

168 (11) (a) The Department of Health shall provide an ultrasound, in accordance with the
169 provisions of Subsection (2)(b), at no expense to the pregnant woman.

170 (b) A local health department shall refer a person who requests an ultrasound described
171 in Subsection (11)(a) to the Department of Health.

172 (12) A physician is not guilty of violating this section if:

173 (a) the physician provides the information described in Subsection (2) less than 72
174 hours before performing the abortion; and

175 (b) in the physician's professional judgment, the abortion was necessary in a case
176 where:

177 (i) a ruptured membrane, documented by the attending or referring physician, will
178 cause a serious infection; or

179 (ii) a serious infection, documented by the attending or referring physician, will cause a
180 ruptured membrane.

181 Section 2. Section 76-7-305.5 is amended to read:

182 **76-7-305.5. Requirements for printed materials and informational video.**

- 183 (1) In order to ensure that a woman's consent to an abortion is truly an informed
184 consent, the Department of Health shall, in accordance with the requirements of this section:
- 185 (a) publish printed materials; and
186 (b) produce an informational video.
- 187 (2) The printed materials and the informational video described in Subsection (1) shall:
- 188 (a) be scientifically accurate, comprehensible, and presented in a truthful,
189 nonmisleading manner;
- 190 (b) present adoption as a preferred and positive choice and alternative to abortion;
- 191 (c) be printed and produced in a manner that conveys the state's preference for
192 childbirth over abortion;
- 193 (d) state that the state prefers childbirth over abortion;
- 194 (e) state that it is unlawful for any person to coerce a woman to undergo an abortion;
- 195 (f) state that any physician who performs an abortion without obtaining the woman's
196 informed consent or without providing her a private medical consultation in accordance with
197 the requirements of this section, may be liable to her for damages in a civil action at law;
- 198 (g) provide information on resources and public and private services available to assist
199 a pregnant woman, financially or otherwise, during pregnancy, at childbirth, and while the
200 child is dependent, including:
- 201 (i) medical assistance benefits for prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care;
202 (ii) services and supports available under Section [35A-3-308](#);
- 203 (iii) other financial aid that may be available during an adoption; and
204 (iv) services available from public adoption agencies, private adoption agencies, and
205 private attorneys whose practice includes adoption;
- 206 (h) describe the adoption-related expenses that may be paid under Section [76-7-203](#);
- 207 (i) describe the persons who may pay the adoption related expenses described in
208 Subsection (2)(h);
- 209 (j) describe the legal responsibility of the father of a child to assist in child support,
210 even if the father has agreed to pay for an abortion;
- 211 (k) describe the services available through the Office of Recovery Services, within the
212 Department of Human Services, to establish and collect the support described in Subsection
213 (2)(j);

214 (l) state that private adoption is legal;

215 (m) in accordance with Subsection (3), describe the probable anatomical and
216 physiological characteristics of an unborn child at two-week gestational increments from
217 fertilization to full term, including:

218 (i) brain and heart function; and

219 (ii) the presence and development of external members and internal organs;

220 (n) describe abortion procedures used in current medical practice at the various stages
221 of growth of the unborn child, including:

222 (i) the medical risks associated with each procedure;

223 (ii) the risk related to subsequent childbearing that are associated with each procedure;

224 and

225 (iii) the consequences of each procedure to the unborn child at various stages of fetal
226 development;

227 (o) describe the possible detrimental psychological effects of abortion;

228 (p) describe the medical risks associated with carrying a child to term; ~~and~~

229 (q) include relevant information on the possibility of an unborn child's survival at the
230 two-week gestational increments described in Subsection (2)(m)~~[-]; and~~

231 (r) explain that a medication-induced abortion may be able to be reversed.

232 (3) The information described in Subsection (2)(m) shall be accompanied by the
233 following for each gestational increment described in Subsection (2)(m):

234 (a) pictures or video segments that accurately represent the normal development of an
235 unborn child at that stage of development; and

236 (b) the dimensions of the fetus at that stage of development.

237 (4) The printed material and video described in Subsection (1) may include a toll-free
238 24-hour telephone number that may be called in order to obtain, orally, a list and description of
239 services, agencies, and adoption attorneys in the locality of the caller.

240 (5) In addition to the requirements described in Subsection (2), the printed material
241 described in Subsection (1)(a) shall:

242 (a) be printed in a typeface large enough to be clearly legible;

243 (b) in accordance with Subsection (6), include a geographically indexed list of public
244 and private services and agencies available to assist a woman, financially or otherwise, through

- 245 pregnancy, at childbirth, and while the child is dependent; and
- 246 (c) except as provided in Subsection (7), include a separate brochure that contains
- 247 truthful, nonmisleading information regarding:
- 248 (i) substantial medical evidence from studies concluding that an unborn child who is at
- 249 least 20 weeks gestational age may be capable of experiencing pain during an abortion
- 250 procedure; and
- 251 (ii) the measures that shall be taken in accordance with Section 76-7-308.5.
- 252 (6) The list described in Subsection (5)(b) shall include:
- 253 (a) private attorneys whose practice includes adoption; and
- 254 (b) the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of each person listed under
- 255 Subsection (5)(b) or (6)(a).
- 256 (7) A person or facility is not required to provide the information described in
- 257 Subsection (5)(c) to a patient or potential patient, if the abortion is to be performed:
- 258 (a) on an unborn child who is less than 20 weeks gestational age at the time of the
- 259 abortion; or
- 260 (b) on an unborn child who is at least 20 weeks gestational age at the time of the
- 261 abortion, if:
- 262 (i) the abortion is being performed for a reason described in Subsection
- 263 76-7-302(3)(b)(i) or (ii); and
- 264 (ii) due to a serious medical emergency, time does not permit compliance with the
- 265 requirement to provide the information described in Subsection (5)(c).
- 266 (8) In addition to the requirements described in Subsection (2), the video described in
- 267 Subsection (1)(b) shall:
- 268 (a) make reference to the list described in Subsection (5)(b); and
- 269 (b) show an ultrasound of the heartbeat of an unborn child at:
- 270 (i) four weeks from conception;
- 271 (ii) six to eight weeks from conception; and
- 272 (iii) each month after 10 weeks gestational age, up to 14 weeks gestational age.