

Center for Public Health Law Research

Summary Report

Procedural Protections in Reproductive Health Care Conscience Laws

This longitudinal 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. The data specifically focus 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 from December 18, 2018 through December 31, 2019. You can see additional maps and tables by visiting <u>www.LawAtlas.org</u>.



Immunity from Civil Liability

There were 37 jurisdictions as of December 31, 2019 that explicitly protect individuals or institutions from civil liability for their conscience-based refusal to participate in abortion.

Jurisdictions: 37 (AL, AK, AR, CA, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, UT, VA, WI, WY)



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 a refusing provider to inform their patient about legal treatment options.

Jurisdictions: 1 (IL)