

ASKING FOR A MOM

WHAT HAPPENS IN TEXAS IF A PREGNANT WOMAN NEEDS LIFE-SAVING MEDICAL CARE?

THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER ACT: WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

The Life of the Mother Act is a Texas law passed in 2025. It clarifies that:

- Doctors do not have to hesitate to terminate a pregnancy if a mom is having a medical emergency.
- Protections exist for pregnant women and doctors so care is not delayed or denied in a medical emergency.
- Texas will educate doctors about legal abortion health care.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR A MOM AND HER DOCTOR?

- A pregnant woman's doctor does not have to wait until her life is in immediate danger to act.
- Doctors do not have to delay care to protect the fetus if waiting puts the pregnant woman at higher risk.
- A pregnant woman's doctor is protected by law when using reasonable medical judgment.
- To prosecute a doctor, the state must prove no other reasonable doctor would have made the same choice.
- Texas requires all doctors who specialize in caring for pregnant women to learn about the Life of the Mother Act.
- Elective abortion is still illegal in Texas.

WHAT COUNTS AS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?

To determine if a pregnant woman is having a medical emergency under Texas law, her doctor should think about two main questions:

1. Does the patient have a physical health problem that is possibly fatal and (i) could result in her death or (ii) put her at serious risk of substantial harm to a major bodily function (such as her heart, lungs, or kidneys)?
2. Will terminating the pregnancy reduce or prevent either of those risks?

If a physician answers "yes" to both questions, then an abortion is legally allowed. The law does NOT require your condition to become worse or for serious harm or death to be imminent before care is given.

WHAT KIND OF PREGNANCY-RELATED CARE IS ALWAYS LEGAL IN TEXAS?

The following treatments are always allowed:

- Removal of an ectopic pregnancy
- Miscarriage care
- Birth control and emergency contraception
- Delivery to save a baby's life
- Treatment for cancer, appendicitis, heart problems, or other medical emergencies
- Removal of pregnancy tissue after a loss

If a pregnancy ends by accident or by medically necessary termination during these or any other treatments, Texas law does not consider it an illegal abortion.

WHAT ABOUT THE CASES THAT DON'T QUALIFY IN TEXAS?

Texas law clarifies that these situations alone do not allow for a legal medical termination of a pregnancy:

- Fetal anomaly
- Mental health concerns
- Rape or incest
- Elective abortion

However: If a medical emergency develops in addition to the situations listed above, the exception to the law applies.

WHAT DOES A PREGNANT WOMAN DO IF SHE'S HAVING TROUBLE GETTING HELP FOR ANY REASON?

If you're pregnant and in a medical emergency but not getting the help you need, you can:

- Ask your doctor to explain their reasons for not acting.
- Request additional opinions from other health care professionals.
- Ask for transfer to another facility.



**HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?
SCAN HERE**

YOU DESERVE TIMELY, APPROPRIATE MEDICAL CARE.

This information is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute or replacement for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment OR professional legal advice. Any reliance is solely at your own risk. **Always seek the advice of a healthcare provider regarding your symptoms or medical conditions or any treatment and never disregard professional medical advice or delay seeking care based on this information.** Anyone seeking specific legal advice or assistance should retain an attorney. This information is not guaranteed to be correct, complete, or current, and is provided without warranty of any kind, either express or implied.

Content on this document has been reviewed for accuracy and endorsed by the Texas Medical Association for clinical accuracy regarding pregnancy-related medical emergencies under Texas law.