



## State law chart: Shield laws (updated July 15, 2024)

In the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, abortion has been severely restricted or banned in approximately half the states. These laws have far-reaching implications and raise concerns among physicians about criminal prosecution, civil litigation, and/or professional disciplinary action across state lines. In response to concerns that abortion bans could be enforced by restrictive states extraterritorially, some states have enacted so-called “shield laws” to protect healthcare professionals who provide abortion care from out-of-state civil, criminal, professional and other forms of liability. These laws do not preclude action in another state but limit the impact or reach of out-of-state actions in the protective state.

The chart below tracks state legislation to shield abortion providers from out-of-state actions, investigations, and proceedings. **Importantly, protections are limited to reproductive health-related activity and are conditional on the underlying action (e.g., providing abortion care) being provided lawfully in the protective state.** Some states also extend protections to providers of gender-affirming care. Additionally, several governors have issued executive orders that are not included in this chart.

**Chart: Legislative protections for physicians who provide abortion care in compliance with the laws of the protective state**

Category	Statutory protection	State																		
		CA*	CO*	CT*	DC*	DE	HI	IL*	MA*	MD	ME*	MN*	NM*	NJ	NV	NY*	OR*	RI*	VT*	WA*
Out-of-state legal actions or investigations	Prohibits issuance of a subpoena and/or summons from another state	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
	Prohibits state actors from making arrests and/or assisting in an investigation or proceeding from another state	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
	Prohibits enforcement of a civil judgment from another state	X	X			X	X		X	X	X							X	X	
	Prohibits extradition	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
	Prohibits collection or use of certain evidence	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		X		X		X		X
Licensing boards	Prohibits adverse action by licensing board based on abortion-related activity	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
	Prohibits adverse action by licensing board based on professional discipline and/or criminal conviction in another state	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		

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		CA*	CO*	CT*	DC*	DE	HI	IL*	MA*	MD	ME*	MN*	NM*	NJ	NV	NY*	OR*	RI*	VT*	WA*
Licensing boards (con't)	Prohibits licensing board from disclosing information about discipline, judgment, conviction, and/or settlement								X		X		X				X	X		
Malpractice insurers	Prohibits adverse action by medical malpractice insurer based on abortion-related activity	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X					X	X	X		
	Prohibits adverse action by medical malpractice insurer based on legal or disciplinary action in another state	X		X					X		X						X	X		
Health care institutions	Prohibits adverse action by health care institution based on abortion-related activity	X		X				X			X							X		
Health insurers	Prohibits health insurer from withholding payment based on abortion-related activity		X								X							X		
	Prohibits health insurer from refusing to credential an applicant or terminating a network provider based on abortion-related activity	X	X								X							X		
Confidentiality	Extends additional confidentiality protections to abortion providers and others	X	X			X			X		X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Civil cause of action	Creates a civil cause of action for persons against whom a judgment was entered in another state	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X				X		X	X	
	Creates a civil cause of action for unlawful interference with right to obtain certain medical care	X			X				X				X			X	X		X	X
	Authorizes attorney general to bring action for unlawful interference with right to obtain medical care												X							X
Prescribing	Protects providers who prescribe medication to patient located in another state	X	X						X		X					X		X	X	X

\*Some or all protections extend to the provision of gender-affirming care

For additional information or assistance in your state, please contact Annalia Michelman, Senior Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at [annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org](mailto:annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org)

## Appendix: Links to included state legislation

### California

- [AB 1666 \(2022\)](#)
- [AB 2626 \(2022\)](#)
- [AB 1242 \(2022\)](#)
- [AB 2091 \(2022\)](#)
- [SB 107 \(2022\)](#)
- [AB 571 \(2023\)](#)
- [AB 1707 \(2023\)](#)
- [SB 345 \(2023\)](#)
- [SB 487 \(2023\)](#)

### Colorado

- [SB 23-188 \(2023\)](#)

### Connecticut

- [HB 5414 \(2022\)](#)
- [HB 5506 \(2022\)](#)
- [HB 6820 \(2023\)](#)

### Delaware

- [HB 455 \(2022\)](#)
- [SB 158 \(2023\)](#)

### District of Columbia

- [Act 24-646 \(2022\)](#)
- [Act 24-644 \(2022\)](#)
- [Act 24-738 \(2023\)](#)

### Hawaii

- [SB 1 \(2023\)](#)

### Illinois

- [HB 4664 \(2023\)](#)
- [HB 5239 \(2024\)](#)

### Massachusetts

- [HB 5090 \(2022\)](#)

### Maryland

- [HB 808/SB 859 \(2023\)](#)
- [SB 119 \(2024\)](#)

### Maine

- [LD 616 \(2023\)](#)
- [LD 227 \(2024\)](#)

### Minnesota

- [HF 366 \(2023\)](#)
- [HF 146 \(2023\)](#)

### Nevada

- [SB 131 \(2023\)](#)

### New Jersey

- [A 3974/ S 2642 \(2022\)](#)
- [A 3975/ S 2633 \(2022\)](#)

### New Mexico

- [HB 7 \(2023\)](#)
- [SB 13 \(2023\)](#)

### New York

- [S 9077A/ A 10372A \(2022\)](#)
- [S 9079B/ A 9687B \(2022\)](#)
- [S 9080B/ A 9718B \(2022\)](#)
- [S 9384/ A 9818A \(2022\)](#)
- [S 9039A/ A 10094 \(2022\)](#)
- [S 1351/ A 1005 \(2023\)](#)
- [S 1066/ A 1709B \(2023\)](#)
- [S 2475B/ A 6046B \(2023\)](#)

### Oregon

- [HB 2002 \(2023\)](#)

### Rhode Island

- [S 2262 \(2024\)](#)

### Vermont

- [H 89 \(2023\)](#)

### Washington

- [HB 1469 \(2023\)](#)