



WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE



ACCESSING ABORTIONS IN THE FREE STATE

Know your rights and the facilities to approach for services



Accessing Safe *and* Legal Abortions

ABORTION (ALSO KNOWN AS TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY) IS LEGAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Yet, most womxn do not know **where** to access safe abortion services, how to obtain information about abortion facilities and whether they are legally entitled to have a free abortion in public health care facilities.

The WLC, together with partners and allies, has put together this pamphlet to ensure that you have basic information about your right to access safe and legal abortion, as well as helping you find your nearest abortion facility.

The WLC uses the term “womxn” as an intention to be inclusive of all persons who identify themselves as womxn. It further serves as a rejection of patriarchal values attached to the gender binary.



HAVING AN ABORTION IN TERMS OF THE LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA



WHEN CAN YOU GET AN ABORTION?

THE RIGHT TO ACCESS A SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION IS PART OF RIGHT REFERRED TO AS REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.

We firmly believe in and agree with the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act; the law that deals with abortion and provides that:

- The decision to have children is part of a womxn's right to access reproductive health care services.
- This includes contraception, termination of pregnancy, as well as sexual education and counselling programmes and services.
- Womxn and girls have the right to be informed of and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation of their choice.
- Womxn have the right to access appropriate health care services and the government has the responsibility to provide reproductive health care to all, and also to provide safe conditions under which the right of choice can be exercised without fear, harm or stigma.

TIMELINE FOR PREGNANCY:	CONDITIONS:	ABORTION PERFORMED BY:
First 12 weeks of pregnancy	Available on request - no conditions	A doctor, a nurse or a registered midwife
13-20 weeks of pregnancy	Abortion available under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rape or incest - Danger to your mental or physical health - The fetus is not viable - If the pregnancy would significantly affect your economic or social circumstances 	A doctor
After 20 weeks of pregnancy	Abortion is only available in limited circumstances, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the pregnancy is a danger to your life or the health of the fetus 	A doctor



All womxn have the right to access safe and legal abortions (termination of pregnancy), for free at a government hospital or clinic.

Before the end of the first 3 months of pregnancy, an abortion can be carried out by a doctor or a trained registered nurse or midwife – therefore making abortion more accessible earlier in the pregnancy.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

- **No healthcare worker is legally allowed to refuse an abortion** based on age, profession, nationality, race or any other criteria.
- **You also do not need permission from anyone**, including partners or family members, when getting an abortion, even if you are a minor.
- **You also have the right to abortion counselling**, which you can request from the healthcare center where you choose to get your abortion.
- **To have a free abortion at a public health clinic or hospital:**
 - First, you need to go to a local primary healthcare clinic.
 - The primary health care clinic must examine you to confirm your pregnancy, provide counselling if asked for and schedule an appointment for the abortion or refer you to another public health clinic or hospital where the abortion can be performed.
- **Where else can you go to have a safe abortion?**

Private doctors and non-profit organizations who are trained and qualified to perform abortions also provide safe and legal abortions. Private health facilities and organizations do charge fees for this (sometimes thousands of rands).



An abortion performed by a person who is not trained and unqualified and has not been designated as an abortion service provider by your provincial Department of Health can be a danger to your health and your life.



FACILITIES FOR 1ST TRIMESTER (UP TO 12 WEEKS) ABORTIONS IN THE FREE STATE

NAME	LOCATION	DISTRICT
Albert Nzula District Hospital	Free state	Albert Nzula District
Botshabelo Hospital	Free state	Free state
Dr JS Moroka Hospital	Free state	Free state
Elizabeth Ross Hospital	Free state	Free state
Fezi Ngubentombi Hospital	Free state	Free state
Itemoheng Hospital	Free state	Free state
Katleho Hospital	Free state	Free state

Mafube Hospital	Free state	Free state
National District Hospital	Free state	Free state
Phekolong Hospital	Free state	Free state
Tokollo Hospital	Free state	Free state
Thusanong Hospital	Free state	Free state
Albert Luthuli Memorial clinic	Free state	Free state

FACILITIES FOR 2ND TRIMESTER (UP TO 20 WEEKS) ABORTION IN THE FREE STATE

NAME	LOCATION	DISTRICT
Albert Nzula District Hospital	Free state	Free state
National District Hospital	Free state	Free state

The information on facilities that provide abortion services in South Africa is always changing.

The Where to Care map tracks these changes to ensure that the information is up to date. You can access the map by visiting <https://bit.ly/WhereToCareMap>

Please turn your mobile data service on and ALLOW location permission when asked to view the map. Please note that the map is zero-rated, meaning that it will not use your data.



**SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN
ACCESSING ABORTION SERVICES,
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US:**

WEBSITE

www.wlce.co.za

HELPDESK QUERIES:

info@wlce.co.za

TELEPHONE:

021 424 5660

WHATSAPP

079 421 8197



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