



# 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.

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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"><li>- Rape or incest</li><li>- Danger to your mental or physical health</li><li>- The fetus is not viable</li><li>- If the pregnancy would significantly affect your economic or social circumstances</li></ul>	A doctor
After 20 weeks of pregnancy	Abortion is only available in limited circumstances, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If the pregnancy is a danger to your life or the health of the fetus</li></ul>	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 WESTERN CAPE

NAME	LOCATION	DISTRICT
Groote Schuur Hospital	Observatory	Cape Town Metro
Somerset Hospital	Green Point	Cape Town Metro
KWesfleur Hospital	Atlantis	Cape Town Metro
False Bay Hospital	Fish Hoek	Cape Town Metro
Victoria Hospital	Plumstead	Cape Town Metro



2 Military Hospital	Wynberg	Cape Town Metro
G F Jooste Hospital	Manenberg	Cape Town Metro
Mitchell's Plain CHC	Mitchell's Plain	Cape Town Metro
Lentegeur Hospital	Mitchell's Plain	Cape Town Metro
Karl Bremer Hospital	Parow	Cape Town Metro
Tygerberg Hospital	Tygerberg	Cape Town Metro
Eerste River Hospital	Eerste River	Cape Town Metro
Helderberg Hospital	Somerset West	Cape Town Metro
Micheal Mapongwana CHC	Khayelitsha	Cape Town Metro
Nolungile COCT Youth Clinic	Khayelitsha	Cape Town Metro
Kuyasa Clinic Clinic	Khayelitsha	Cape Town Metro
Clanwilliam Hospital	Clanwilliam	West Coast
Citrusdal Hospital	Citrusdal	West Coast
Swartland Hospital	Malmesbury	West Coast
Vredendal Hospital	Vredendal	West Coast
Paarl Hospital	Paarl	Cape Winelands
TC Newman CDC	Paarl	Cape Winelands
Stellenbosch Hospital	Stellenbosch	Cape Winelands
Ceres Hospital	Ceres	Cape Winelands
Worcester Hospital	Worcester	Cape Winelands
Montagu Hospital	Montagu	Cape Winelands
Caledon Hospital	Caledon	Overberg District
Hermanus Hospital	Hermanus	Overberg District
Otto Du Plessis Hospital	Bredasdorp	Overberg District
Knysna Hospital	Knysna	Eden District

ACCREDITED PRIVATE FACILITIES		
Paarl MediClinic	Berlyn street, Paarl	Cape Winelands
UCT Private Clinic	New Main Building, AnzioRoad Observatory	Cape Town Metro
Mosaic Training and Healing Centre	PO Box 18460, Wynberg 7824	Cape Town Metro
Kingsbury Hospital	Wilderness Road,Claremont	Cape Town Metro
Bay View	c/o alfoff Avenue Ryktulbagh Street, Mossel Bay	Eden District
Cape Town Medi-Clinic	21 Hof street, Garden, Cape Town	Cape Town Metro
Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital	181 LongMarket Street, Cape Town	Cape Town Metro
Constantiaberg Medi-Clinic	Burnham Way, Plumstead	Cape Town Metro
Hermanus Medi-Clinic	Hospitaal Straat, Hermanus	Overberg District
Milnerton Medi-Clinic	RaceCourse Way, Milnerton	Cape Town Metro
Panorama Medi Clinic	Rothchild Blvd, Panorama	Cape Town Metro
Vergelegen Medi-Clinic	MainStreet, Somerset West	Cape Town Metro



## FACILITIES FOR 2ND TRIMESTER (UP TO 20 WEEKS) ABORTION IN THE WESTERN CAPE

NAME	LOCATION	DISTRICT
Heidelberg CHC	Heidelberg	Eden District
Riversdale Hospital	Riversdale	Eden District
Oudtshoorn Hospital	Oudtshoorn	Eden District
Ladismith Hospital	Ladismith	Eden District
Wesfleur Hospital	Atlantis	Cape Town Metro
Beaufort West Hospital	Beaufort West	Central Karoo
Prince Albert Hospital	Prince Albert	Central Karoo
George Hospital	George	Eden District
Groote Schuur Hospital	Observatory	Cape Town Metro
Somerset Hospital	Green Point	Cape Town Metro
Victoria Hospital	Plumstead	Cape Town Metro
G F Jooste Hospital	Manenberg	Cape Town Metro
Karl Bremer Hospital	Parow	Cape Town Metro
Tygerberg Hospital	Tygerberg	Cape Town Metro
Paarl Hospital	Paarl	Cape Winelands
Worcester Hospital	Worcester	Cape Winelands
Knysna Hospital	Knysna	Eden District

ACCREDITED PRIVATE FACILITIES		
Broad Road Surgical	Broad Road, Wynberg	Cape Winelands
Constantiaberg Medi-Clinic	Burnham Way, Plumstead	Cape Town Metro
Durbanville Med-Clinic	45 Wellington Road, Durbanville	Cape Town Metro
Kingsbury Hospital	Wilderness Road, Claremont	Cape Town Metro
Hermanus Medi-Clinic	Hospitaal Straat, Hermanus	Overberg District
Worcester Medi-Clinic	67 Fairburn Street, Worcester	Cape Winelands

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](http://www.wlce.co.za)

**HELPDESK QUERIES:**

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079 421 8197



**WOMEN'S  
LEGAL  
CENTRE**