

REFERENCE TITLE: **abortion; informed consent**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-first Legislature
Second Regular Session
2014

HB 2493

Introduced by
Representatives Otondo, Alston, Escamilla, Gabaldón, Mendez, Sherwood,
Steele, Senators Farley, Gallardo, Hobbs: Representatives Campbell,
Gallego, Gonzales, Larkin, Mach, Meyer, Wheeler, Senators Bradley, Cajero
Bedford, Pancrazi, Tovar

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 36-2153, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO ABORTION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 36-2153, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 36-2153. Informed consent; requirements; information; website;
5 signs; violation; civil relief; statute of
6 limitations

7 A. An abortion shall not be performed or induced without the voluntary
8 and informed consent of the woman on whom the abortion is to be performed or
9 induced. Except in the case of a medical emergency and in addition to the
10 other requirements of this chapter, consent to an abortion is voluntary and
11 informed only if all of the following are true:

12 1. At least twenty-four hours before the abortion, ~~the physician who~~
13 ~~is to perform the abortion or the referring physician has informed~~ the
14 woman, ~~orally and in person,~~ **HAS BEEN INFORMED** of:

15 (a) The name of the physician who will perform the abortion.

16 (b) The nature of the proposed procedure or treatment.

17 (c) The immediate and long-term medical risks associated with the
18 procedure that a reasonable patient would consider material to the decision
19 of whether or not to undergo the abortion.

20 (d) Alternatives to the procedure or treatment that a reasonable
21 patient would consider material to the decision of whether or not to undergo
22 the abortion.

23 (e) The probable gestational age of the unborn child at the time the
24 abortion is to be performed.

25 (f) The probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the
26 unborn child at the time the abortion is to be performed.

27 (g) The medical risks associated with carrying the child to term.

28 2. At least twenty-four hours before the abortion, the physician who
29 is to perform the abortion, the referring physician or a qualified physician,
30 physician assistant, nurse, psychologist or licensed behavioral health
31 professional to whom the responsibility has been delegated by either
32 physician has informed the woman, orally and in person, that:

33 (a) Medical assistance benefits may be available for prenatal care,
34 childbirth and neonatal care.

35 (b) The father of the unborn child is liable to assist in the support
36 of the child, even if he has offered to pay for the abortion. In the case of
37 rape or incest, this information may be omitted.

38 (c) Public and private agencies and services are available to assist
39 the woman during her pregnancy and after the birth of her child if she
40 chooses not to have an abortion, whether she chooses to keep the child or
41 place the child for adoption.

42 (d) It is unlawful for any person to coerce a woman to undergo an
43 abortion.

44 (e) The woman is free to withhold or withdraw her consent to the
45 abortion at any time without affecting her right to future care or treatment

1 and without the loss of any state or federally funded benefits to which she
2 might otherwise be entitled.

3 (f) The department of health services maintains a website that
4 describes the unborn child and lists the agencies that offer alternatives to
5 abortion.

6 (g) The woman has a right to review the website and that a printed
7 copy of the materials on the website will be provided to her free of charge
8 if she chooses to review these materials.

9 3. The information in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection is
10 provided to the woman individually and in a private room to protect her
11 privacy and to ensure that the information focuses on her individual
12 circumstances and that she has adequate opportunity to ask questions.

13 4. The woman certifies in writing before the abortion that the
14 information required to be provided pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this
15 subsection has been provided.

16 B. If a medical emergency compels the performance of an abortion, the
17 physician shall inform the woman, before the abortion if possible, of the
18 medical indications supporting the physician's judgment that an abortion is
19 necessary to avert the woman's death or to avert substantial and irreversible
20 impairment of a major bodily function.

21 C. The department of health services shall establish a website ~~within~~
22 ~~ninety days after the effective date of this amendment to this section~~ and
23 shall annually update the website. The website must include a link to a
24 printable version of all materials listed on the website. The materials must
25 be written in an easily understood manner and printed in a typeface that is
26 large enough to be clearly legible. The website must include all of the
27 following materials:

28 1. Information that is organized geographically by location and that
29 is designed to inform the woman about public and private agencies and
30 services that are available to assist a woman through pregnancy, at
31 childbirth and while her child is dependent, including adoption agencies.
32 The materials shall include a comprehensive list of the agencies, a
33 description of the services they offer and the manner in which these agencies
34 may be contacted, including the agencies' telephone numbers and website
35 addresses.

36 2. Information on the availability of medical assistance benefits for
37 prenatal care, childbirth and neonatal care.

38 3. A statement that it is unlawful for any person to coerce a woman to
39 undergo an abortion.

40 4. A statement that any physician who performs an abortion on a woman
41 without obtaining the woman's voluntary and informed consent or without
42 affording her a private medical consultation may be liable to the woman for
43 damages in a civil action.

44 5. A statement that the father of a child is liable to assist in the
45 support of that child, even if the father has offered to pay for an abortion,

1 and that the law allows adoptive parents to pay costs of prenatal care,
2 childbirth and neonatal care.

3 6. Information that is designed to inform the woman of the probable
4 anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at two-week
5 gestational increments from fertilization to full term, including pictures or
6 drawings representing the development of unborn children at two-week
7 gestational increments and any relevant information on the possibility of the
8 unborn child's survival. The pictures or drawings must contain the
9 dimensions of the unborn child and must be realistic and appropriate for each
10 stage of pregnancy. The information provided pursuant to this paragraph must
11 be objective, nonjudgmental and designed to convey only accurate scientific
12 information about the unborn child at the various gestational ages.

13 7. Objective information that describes the methods of abortion
14 procedures commonly employed, the medical risks commonly associated with each
15 procedure, the possible detrimental psychological effects of abortion and the
16 medical risks commonly associated with carrying a child to term.

17 D. An individual who is not a physician shall not perform a surgical
18 abortion.

19 E. A person shall not write or communicate a prescription for a drug
20 or drugs to induce an abortion or require or obtain payment for a service
21 provided to a patient who has inquired about an abortion or scheduled an
22 abortion until the expiration of the twenty-four hour reflection period
23 required by subsection A of this section.

24 F. A person shall not intimidate or coerce in any way any person to
25 obtain an abortion. A parent, a guardian or any other person shall not
26 coerce a minor to obtain an abortion. If a minor is denied financial support
27 by the minor's parents, guardians or custodian due to the minor's refusal to
28 have an abortion performed, the minor is deemed emancipated for the purposes
29 of eligibility for public assistance benefits, except that the emancipated
30 minor may not use these benefits to obtain an abortion.

31 G. An abortion clinic as defined in section 36-449.01 shall
32 conspicuously post signs that are visible to all who enter the abortion
33 clinic, that are clearly readable and that state it is unlawful for any
34 person to force a woman to have an abortion and a woman who is being forced
35 to have an abortion has the right to contact any local or state law
36 enforcement or social service agency to receive protection from any actual or
37 threatened physical, emotional or psychological abuse. The signs shall be
38 posted in the waiting room, consultation rooms and procedure rooms.

39 H. A person shall not require a woman to obtain an abortion as a
40 provision in a contract or as a condition of employment.

41 I. A physician who knowingly violates this section commits an act of
42 unprofessional conduct and is subject to license suspension or revocation
43 pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17.

1 J. In addition to other remedies available under the common or
2 statutory law of this state, any of the following may file a civil action to
3 obtain appropriate relief for a violation of this section:

4 1. A woman on whom an abortion has been performed without her informed
5 consent as required by this section.

6 2. The father of the unborn child if married to the mother at the time
7 she received the abortion, unless the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's
8 criminal conduct.

9 3. The maternal grandparents of the unborn child if the mother was not
10 at least eighteen years of age at the time of the abortion, unless the
11 pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct.

12 K. A civil action filed pursuant to subsection J of this section shall
13 be brought in the superior court in the county in which the woman on whom the
14 abortion was performed resides and may be based on a claim that failure to
15 obtain informed consent was a result of simple negligence, gross negligence,
16 wantonness, wilfulness, intention or any other legal standard of
17 care. Relief pursuant to subsection J of this section includes the
18 following:

19 1. Money damages for all psychological, emotional and physical
20 injuries resulting from the violation of this section.

21 2. Statutory damages in an amount equal to five thousand dollars or
22 three times the cost of the abortion, whichever is greater.

23 3. Reasonable attorney fees and costs.

24 L. A civil action brought pursuant to this section must be initiated
25 within six years after the violation occurred.