

REFERENCE TITLE: prisoners; medical treatment; pregnancy; requirements

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

## HB 2529

Introduced by  
Representatives Stahl Hamilton: Contreras P, Garcia, Gutierrez, Luna-  
Nájera, Simacek, Travers, Villegas, Volk; Senators Gabaldón, Ortiz

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 31-201.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 31,  
CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 31-202;  
AMENDING SECTION 31-601, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PRISONERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 31-201.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 to read:

4 31-201.01. Duties of the director; tort actions; medical  
5 treatment costs; state immunity; definitions

6 A. The director shall hold in custody all persons who are sentenced  
7 to the department under the law and shall hold such persons for the term  
8 directed by the court, subject to law.

9 B. In addition to the medical and health services to be provided  
10 pursuant to subsection D of this section, the director, in cooperation  
11 with the department of health services, may provide to prisoners  
12 psychiatric care and treatment pursuant to sections 31-226 and 31-226.01.

13 C. The director may institute and pursue programs that promote the  
14 rehabilitation of the prisoners in the director's charge.

15 D. The director shall provide medical and health services for the  
16 prisoners. The director may contract for professional services to assist  
17 the director in carrying out this responsibility on behalf of the state,  
18 except that all records made and retained in connection with the services  
19 provided by this subsection shall be made and retained only by duly  
20 authorized or qualified medical and professional personnel and not by any  
21 prisoner. Such records when not in use shall be retained in a safe and  
22 secure place.

23 E. If a victim of a person for whom a cost of incarceration has  
24 been calculated notifies the state that full restitution has not been made  
25 by the person for whom a cost of incarceration has been calculated, the  
26 state shall interplead with the superior court the disputed amount and set  
27 off the amounts owed the state from the remaining obligation.

28 F. Any and all causes of action that may arise out of tort caused  
29 by the director, prison officers or employees of the department, within  
30 the scope of their legal duty, shall run only against the state.

31 G. The director shall establish by rule reasonable medical and  
32 health service fees for the medical and health services that are provided  
33 pursuant to subsection D of this section. Except as provided in  
34 subsection I of this section, every inmate shall be charged a reasonable  
35 medical and health services fee for each medical visit an inmate makes  
36 pursuant to a health needs request form or for emergency treatment.

37 H. Except as provided in subsection I of this section, the director  
38 may charge each inmate a reasonable fee for prescriptions, medication or  
39 prosthetic devices.

40 I. The director shall exempt the following inmates or medical  
41 visits by inmates from payment of medical and health services fees and  
42 fees for prescriptions, medication or prosthetic devices:

43 1. Medical visits initiated by the medical or mental health staff  
44 of the department.

- 1           2. Medical visits to a physician by inmates who are referred by a  
2 physician assistant or nurse practitioner.
- 3           3. Inmates at reception centers.
- 4           4. Juvenile inmates.
- 5           5. Pregnant inmates.
- 6           6. Seriously mentally ill inmates. For the purposes of this  
7 paragraph, "seriously mentally ill inmates" means inmates who as a result  
8 of a mental disorder as defined in section 36-501 exhibit emotional or  
9 behavioral functioning which is so impaired as to interfere substantially  
10 with their capacity to remain in the general prison population without  
11 supportive treatment or services of a long-term or indefinite duration and  
12 whose mental disability is severe and persistent, resulting in a long-term  
13 limitation of their functional capacities for primary activities of daily  
14 living, including interpersonal relationships, self-care, employment and  
15 recreation.
- 16           7. Inmates with developmental disabilities who are housed in a  
17 special programs unit.
- 18           8. Inmates who are housed in unit 8 at the Florence prison  
19 facility.
- 20           9. Inmates who are inpatients at the Alhambra prison facility  
21 special programs psychiatric hospital.
- 22           10. Inmates who are inpatients at the Flamenco prison facility  
23 mental health treatment unit.
- 24           11. Inmates who are undergoing administrative physical examinations  
25 for statewide driver status and fire fighting crews.
- 26           12. Inmates who are undergoing follow-up medical treatment for  
27 chronic diseases.
- 28           J. An inmate shall not be refused medical treatment for financial  
29 reasons.
- 30           K. All monies received by the department for medical and health  
31 service fees shall be deposited in the general fund.
- 32           L. A person who is convicted of a felony offense and who is  
33 incarcerated while awaiting sentence or while serving a sentence imposed  
34 by a court of law may not bring a cause of action seeking damages or  
35 equitable relief from the state or its political subdivisions, agencies,  
36 officers or employees for injuries suffered while in the custody of the  
37 state or its political subdivisions or agencies unless the complaint  
38 alleges specific facts from which the court may conclude that the  
39 plaintiff suffered serious physical injury or the claim is authorized by a  
40 federal statute.
- 41           M. The director shall establish criteria for reasonable deductions  
42 from monies credited to the prisoner's spendable account to repay the cost  
43 of:
  - 44           1. State property that the inmate wilfully damages or destroys  
45 during the inmate's incarceration.

- 1           2. Medical treatment for injuries that the inmate inflicts on  
2 himself or others.
- 3           3. Searching for and apprehending an inmate who escapes or attempts  
4 to escape.
- 5           4. Quelling a riot or other disturbance in which the inmate is  
6 unlawfully involved.
- 7           5. Fees prescribed by title 28 or the department of  
8 transportation's rules for the issuance of either a driver license or a  
9 nonoperating identification license to the inmate, if eligible.
- 10          N. On request of a female inmate, the director shall provide female  
11 inmates with a sufficient supply of feminine hygiene products **THAT MEET**  
12 **APPLICABLE INDUSTRY STANDARDS**. Notwithstanding any other law, the  
13 director may not charge female inmates for feminine hygiene products.
- 14          O. For the purposes of this section:
- 15           1. "Feminine hygiene products" includes tampons, sanitary napkins,  
16 menstrual sponges, menstrual cups and similar items that are used for a  
17 menstrual cycle.
- 18           2. "Reasonable fee" means an amount not to exceed \$5.
- 19           3. "Serious physical injury" means an impairment of physical  
20 condition that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes serious  
21 disfigurement, prolonged impairment of health or prolonged loss or  
22 impairment of the function of any bodily organ.
- 23          Sec. 2. Title 31, chapter 2, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
24 is amended by adding section 31-202, to read:
- 25           31-202. Non-life-threatening medical conditions; refusal of  
26 medical treatment; procedures
- 27           THE DEPARTMENT'S HEALTH CARE STAFF SHALL DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING IF  
28 A PRISONER REFUSES MEDICAL TREATMENT AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED WITH A MEDICAL  
29 CONDITION THAT IS NOT LIFE-THREATENING:
- 30           1. EXPLAIN TO THE PRISONER THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT RECEIVING  
31 MEDICAL TREATMENT.
- 32           2. COMPLETE A REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT FORM THAT  
33 THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTS THE MEDICAL CONDITION, THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT  
34 RECEIVING TREATMENT AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF  
35 THE PRISONER AND DO BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:
- 36           (a) HAVE THE PRISONER SIGN THE COMPLETED FORM. IF THE PRISONER  
37 REFUSES TO SIGN THE FORM, TWO DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE STAFF MEMBERS MUST  
38 WITNESS THE REFUSAL AND SIGN THE FORM WITH A NOTATION THAT THE PRISONER  
39 REFUSED TO SIGN THE COMPLETED FORM.
- 40           (b) PLACE THE COMPLETED FORM IN THE PRISONER'S MEDICAL RECORD.
- 41           3. HONOR A PRISONER'S PREFERENCE TO REFUSE MEDICAL TREATMENT.
- 42           4. CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO FUTURE MEDICAL CONDITIONS INVOLVING THE  
43 SAME PRISONER.

1           Sec. 3. Section 31-601, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
2 read:

3           31-601. Pregnant prisoners; restraints; written findings;  
4           rules; appropriate food and dietary supplements;  
5           restrictive housing; bed placement; training;  
6           reporting; definitions

7           A. After a correctional institution receives information that a  
8 prisoner or detainee is pregnant or after a prisoner's or detainee's  
9 pregnancy diagnosis, a correctional institution shall not use restraints  
10 on ~~a~~ THE prisoner or detainee for the duration of the pregnancy and for  
11 thirty days following the delivery of ~~a~~ THE child, including when the  
12 prisoner or detainee is being transported for delivery or during labor,  
13 delivery and postpartum recovery, unless either of the following applies:

- 14           1. Attending medical staff requests the use of restraints.  
15           2. The corrections official makes an individualized determination  
16 that the prisoner or detainee presents an extraordinary circumstance.

17           B. Leg restraints, waist restraints or restraints that hinder the  
18 ability of the physician to move the prisoner or detainee, as determined  
19 by the physician, shall not be used on any prisoner or detainee who is in  
20 labor or delivery.

21           C. If restraints are used on a prisoner or detainee pursuant to  
22 subsection A of this section:

23           1. The type of restraint applied and the application of the  
24 restraint must be done in the least restrictive manner necessary.

25           2. The corrections official shall make written findings within  
26 seventy-two hours as to the extraordinary circumstance that dictated the  
27 use of the restraints. These findings shall be kept on file by the  
28 correctional institution for at least two years and made available for  
29 public inspection unless otherwise ~~dictated~~ PRESCRIBED by state or federal  
30 law.

31           D. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S  
32 EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND CONTRACTORS MAY NOT COMPEL, COERCE OR REQUEST A  
33 PREGNANT PRISONER OR DETAINEE TO ELECTIVELY INDUCE LABOR. BEFORE A  
34 PRISONER OR DETAINEE AGREES TO INDUCE LABOR, THE PRISONER OR DETAINEE MUST  
35 SIGN A WRITTEN NOTICE THAT STATES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
36 AND ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND CONTRACTORS MAY NOT  
37 COMPEL, COERCE OR REQUEST THE PRISONER OR DETAINEE TO AGREE TO LABOR  
38 INDUCTION.

39           ~~D.~~ E. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, a security  
40 tether chain that is attached to the bed frame and the prisoner's or  
41 detainee's ankle may be used during postpartum recovery. The security  
42 tether chain shall be long enough for the prisoner or detainee to reach  
43 the bathroom in a private or semi-private room or to exit the bed and  
44 stand in any other recovery setting.

1 ~~F.~~ F. Unless the correctional employee is a licensed health care  
2 professional, the correctional employee may not conduct a body cavity  
3 search on a pregnant prisoner or detainee unless the correctional employee  
4 has a reasonable belief that the pregnant prisoner or detainee is  
5 concealing contraband. The correctional employee shall submit a written  
6 report to the person in charge of the correctional institution within  
7 seventy-two hours after a body cavity search for contraband that provides  
8 the justification for the search and whether any contraband was found.

9 ~~F. G. When ordered by the attending medical staff or a~~  
10 ~~nutritionist~~ A correctional institution shall ensure that a pregnant  
11 prisoner or detainee is provided sufficient food and dietary supplements  
12 that meet generally accepted prenatal nutritional guidelines SET BY THE  
13 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS for pregnant women.  
14 During the first seventy-two hours after the prisoner or detainee gives  
15 birth, the correctional institution shall provide all necessary hygiene  
16 and nutritional products WITHOUT COST to the prisoner or detainee. ~~if the~~  
17 ~~prisoner or detainee is indigent, the correctional institution shall~~  
18 ~~provide the products without cost to the prisoner or detainee.~~

19 ~~G.~~ H. A correctional institution may not place a pregnant prisoner  
20 or detainee or a prisoner or detainee who has given birth within the past  
21 thirty days in restrictive housing unless a corrections official makes an  
22 individualized determination that the prisoner or detainee presents an  
23 extraordinary circumstance. The corrections official shall provide  
24 written findings within seventy-two hours as to the extraordinary  
25 circumstance that dictates the placement in restrictive housing. The  
26 correctional institution shall keep these findings on file for at least  
27 two years and make the findings available for public inspection unless  
28 otherwise dictated by state or federal law.

29 ~~H.~~ I. A correctional institution may not place a pregnant prisoner  
30 or detainee or a prisoner or detainee who has given birth within the past  
31 thirty days in a bed that is elevated more than three feet from the floor  
32 of the correctional institution.

33 ~~I.~~ J. The corrections official shall compile a monthly summary of  
34 the WRITTEN FINDINGS AND reports that are received pursuant to subsections  
35 C, ~~F.~~ F and ~~G.~~ H of this section. The corrections official shall provide  
36 the WRITTEN FINDINGS AND reports to the director of the state department  
37 of corrections each month.

38 ~~J.~~ K. The correctional institution shall allow a newborn baby to  
39 remain with the mother for seventy-two hours following the delivery unless  
40 the attending medical staff has a reasonable belief that remaining with  
41 the mother poses a health or safety risk to the newborn baby.

42 ~~K.~~ L. ~~Within thirty days after the effective date of this~~  
43 ~~amendment to this section,~~ All correctional institutions in this state  
44 shall adopt rules or policies pursuant to this section.

1           ~~M.~~ M. The state department of corrections shall develop and  
2 provide to all:  
3           1. Correctional employees who have contact with pregnant prisoners  
4 or detainees training that is related to the physical and mental health of  
5 a pregnant prisoner or detainee and the fetus, including all of the  
6 following:  
7           (a) General care of a pregnant woman.  
8           (b) The impact of restraints on a pregnant prisoner or detainee and  
9 the fetus.  
10          (c) The impact on pregnant prisoners or detainees who are placed in  
11 restrictive housing.  
12          (d) The impact of an invasive body cavity search on a pregnant  
13 prisoner or detainee.  
14          2. Pregnant prisoners and detainees the following educational  
15 programming:  
16          (a) Prenatal care.  
17          (b) Pregnancy-specific hygiene.  
18          (c) IN-PERSON BIRTHING CLASSES.  
19          (d) WRITTEN EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS THAT EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENT  
20 BIRTHING OPTIONS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON INDUCING  
21 LABOR AND NOT INDUCING LABOR.  
22          ~~(e)~~ (e) Parenting skills.  
23          ~~(d)~~ (f) The impact of alcohol and drugs on the fetus.  
24          ~~(e)~~ (g) General health topics for children.  
25          ~~M.~~ N. For the purposes of this section:  
26          1. "Correctional institution" means any entity under the authority  
27 of any state or county law enforcement agency that has the power to detain  
28 or restrain a person under the laws of this state, including a juvenile  
29 detention center.  
30          2. "Corrections official" means the official who is responsible for  
31 oversight of a correctional institution or the official's designee.  
32          3. "Detainee" includes any female person who is detained under the  
33 immigration laws of the United States at any correctional institution.  
34          4. "Extraordinary circumstance" means a substantial flight risk or  
35 some other medical or security circumstance that dictates restraints be  
36 used to ensure the safety and security of the prisoner or detainee, the  
37 staff of the correctional institution or medical facility, other prisoners  
38 or detainees or the public.  
39          5. "Labor" means, as determined by a physician, nurse, physician's  
40 assistant or other medical practitioner, the period of time before a birth  
41 during which contractions are of sufficient frequency, intensity and  
42 duration to bring about effacement and progressive dilation of the cervix.

1           6. "Postpartum recovery" means, as determined by the woman's  
2 physician, the period immediately following delivery and directly related  
3 to the birth, including the period a woman is in the hospital or infirmary  
4 after birth.

5           7. "Prisoner" means any female person who is incarcerated or  
6 detained in any correctional institution and who is accused of, convicted  
7 of, sentenced for or adjudicated delinquent for a violation of a criminal  
8 law or the terms and conditions of community supervision, probation,  
9 pretrial release or diversionary programs.

10          8. "Restraints" means any physical restraint or mechanical device  
11 used to control the movement of a prisoner's or detainee's body or limbs,  
12 including flex cuffs, soft restraints, hard metal handcuffs, a black box,  
13 chubb cuffs, leg irons, belly chains, a security tether chain or a convex  
14 shield.