

Louisiana

State mandated information

The State of Louisiana requires the physician performing the abortion, the referring physician or other qualified person¹ to inform a woman orally and in person of: (1) the name of the physician performing the abortion; (2) a description of the proposed abortion method and its respective risks; (3) the probable gestational age of the fetus at the time of the abortion; (4) the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the “unborn child” at time of the abortion; (5) the medical risks of carrying child to term; (6) the availability of medical assistance benefits for prenatal care, childbirth and neonatal care; (7) the availability of printed materials that describe “unborn child” and agencies which offer alternatives to abortion; (8) the child support obligations of the father; and (9) the right to withhold or revoke consent at any time prior to or during the abortion.

In addition, if the “unborn child” is viable or has reached twenty-four weeks of gestation, a woman must be informed that: (1) the “unborn child” may be able to survive outside of the womb; (2) she has right to request that the physician use the method most likely to preserve the life of the “unborn child”; and (3) if the child is born alive, the physician performing the abortion has the legal obligation to take all reasonable steps to preserve the life of the child.

State prepared materials

Under Louisiana law, a physician must give a woman state prepared materials prior to her abortion. These materials include: (1) a list of public and private agencies available to assist women through pregnancy, upon childbirth and while child is financially dependent including adoption agencies (2) the child support obligations of the father; (3) the availability of medical assistance benefits for prenatal care, childbirth and neonatal care; (4) non-coercion provision; and (5) a toll-free number where woman can access list of agencies 24-hours a day; (6) written Statement with abortion alternatives and a woman’s right to call agencies before undergoing an abortion; (7) the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the “unborn child” at two-week increments; and (8) a certification form that must be signed by her prior to the abortion.

Mandatory delay requirements

The State of Louisiana imposes a mandatory 24 hour delay before a woman can have an abortion.

La. Rev. Stat. Ann §§ 40:1299.35.6 (Enacted 1978, Last Amended 1995).

¹ Under Louisiana law, a “qualified person” means psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, registered nurse or physician.