

§63-1-730. Definitions.

A. As used in this article:

1. "Abortion" means the use or prescription of any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance or device intentionally to terminate the pregnancy of a female known to be pregnant with an intention other than to increase the probability of a live birth, to preserve the life or health of the child after live birth, to remove an ectopic pregnancy, or to remove a dead unborn child who died as the result of a spontaneous miscarriage, accidental trauma, or a criminal assault on the pregnant female or her unborn child;

2. "Attempt to perform an abortion" means an act, or an omission of a statutorily required act, that under the circumstances as the actor believes them to be constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the performance of an abortion;

3. "Certified technician" means a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer who is certified in obstetrics and gynecology by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) or a Nurse Midwife or Advance Practice Nurse Practitioner in Obstetrics with certification in obstetrical ultrasonography;

4. "Unborn child" means the unborn offspring of human beings from the moment of conception, through pregnancy, and until live birth including the human conceptus, zygote, morula, blastocyst, embryo and fetus;

5. "Unemancipated minor" means any person less than eighteen (18) years of age who is not or has not been married or who is under the care, custody, and control of the person's parent or parents, guardian, or juvenile court of competent jurisdiction;

6. "Viable" means potentially able to live outside of the womb of the mother upon premature birth, whether resulting from natural causes or an abortion;

7. "Conception" means the fertilization of the ovum of a female individual by the sperm of a male individual;

8. "Health" means physical or mental health;

9. "Department" means the State Department of Health; and

10. "Inducing an abortion" means the administration by any person, including the pregnant woman, of any substance designed or intended to cause an expulsion of the unborn child, effecting an abortion as defined above.

B. Nothing contained herein shall be construed in any manner to include any birth control device or medication or sterilization procedure.

Added by Laws 1978, c. 207, § 2, eff. Oct. 1, 1978. Amended by Laws 2007, c. 161, § 1, eff. Nov. 1, 2007; Laws 2009, c. 227, § 1, eff. Nov. 1, 2009.

§63-1-731. Persons who may perform abortions - Violations.

A. No person shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman unless that person is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Oklahoma. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not less than one (1) year nor more than three (3) years in the State Penitentiary.

B. No person shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman subsequent to the end of the first trimester of her pregnancy, unless such abortion is performed or induced in a general hospital.

Added by Laws 1978, c. 207, § 3, eff. Oct. 1, 1978. Amended by Laws 1997, c. 133, § 523, eff. July 1, 1999; Laws 1999, 1st Ex.Sess., c. 5, § 379, eff. July 1, 1999.

NOTE: Laws 1998, 1st Ex.Sess., c. 2, § 23 amended the effective date of Laws 1997, c. 133, § 523 from July 1, 1998, to July 1, 1999.

§63-1-731.1. Repealed by Laws 2010, c. 46, § 2, emerg. eff. April 2, 2010.

§63-1-731.2. Prohibiting certain abortions - Penalties.

A. As used in this section:

1. "Attempt to perform an abortion" means an act, or an omission of a statutorily required act, that under the circumstances as the actor believes them to be constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the performance of an abortion; and

2. "Unemancipated minor" means any person less than eighteen (18) years of age who is not or has not been married or who is under

the care, custody, and control of the person's parent or parents, guardian, or juvenile court of competent jurisdiction.

B. No person shall knowingly or recklessly perform or attempt to perform an abortion with knowledge that the pregnant female is seeking the abortion solely on account of the sex of the unborn child. Nothing in this section shall be construed to proscribe the performance of an abortion because the unborn child has a genetic disorder that is sex-linked.

C. Any person who knowingly or recklessly violates a provision of this section shall be liable for damages as provided in this subsection and may be enjoined from such acts in accordance with this section in an appropriate court.

1. A cause of action for injunctive relief against any person who has knowingly or recklessly violated a provision of this section may be maintained by:

- a. the female upon whom an abortion was performed or attempted to be performed in violation of this section,
- b. any person who is the spouse, parent, sibling, or guardian of, or current or former licensed health care provider of, the female upon whom an abortion has been performed in violation of this section,
- c. a district attorney with appropriate jurisdiction, or
- d. the Attorney General.

2. The injunction shall prevent the abortion provider from performing further abortions in violation of this section in this state.

3. Any person who knowingly violates the terms of an injunction issued in accordance with this section shall be subject to civil contempt and shall be fined Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for the first violation, Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the second violation, and One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for the third violation and for each succeeding violation. The fines shall be the exclusive penalties for civil contempt pursuant to this paragraph. Each performance or attempted performance of an abortion in violation of the terms of an injunction is a separate violation. These fines shall be cumulative. No fine shall be assessed against the female upon whom an abortion is performed or attempted.

4. A pregnant female upon whom an abortion has been performed in violation of this section, or the parent or legal guardian of the female if she is an unemancipated minor, may commence a civil action against the abortion provider for any knowing or reckless violation of this section for actual and punitive damages.

D. An abortion provider who knowingly or recklessly performed an abortion in violation of this section shall be considered to have engaged in unprofessional conduct for which the certificate or license of the provider to provide health care services in this

state shall be suspended or revoked by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision or the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

E. In every proceeding or action brought under this section, the anonymity of any female upon whom an abortion is performed or attempted shall be preserved unless she gives her consent to such disclosure. The court, upon motion or sua sponte, shall issue orders to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall direct the sealing of the record and exclusion of individuals from courtrooms or hearing rooms to the extent necessary to safeguard the female's identity from public disclosure. In the absence of written consent of the female upon whom an abortion has been performed or attempted, anyone who brings an action under subsection B of this section shall do so under a pseudonym.

Added by Laws 2010, c. 46, § 1, emerg. eff. April 2, 2010.

**§63-1-732. Viable fetus - Grounds to abort - Procedure.**

A. No person shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman after such time as her unborn child has become viable unless such abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent impairment to her health.

B. An unborn child shall be presumed to be viable if more than twenty-four (24) weeks have elapsed since the probable beginning of the last menstrual period of the pregnant woman, based upon either information provided by her or by an examination by her attending physician. If it is the judgment of the attending physician that a particular unborn child is not viable where the presumption of viability exists as to that particular unborn child, then he shall certify in writing the precise medical criteria upon which he has determined that the particular unborn child is not viable before an abortion may be performed or induced.

C. No abortion of a viable unborn child shall be performed or induced except after written certification by the attending physician that in his best medical judgment the abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent an impairment to her health. The physician shall further certify in writing the medical indications for such abortion and the probable health consequences if the abortion is not performed or induced.

D. The physician who shall perform or induce an abortion upon a pregnant woman after such time as her unborn child has become viable shall utilize the available method or technique of abortion most likely to preserve the life and health of the unborn child, unless he shall first certify in writing that in his best medical judgment such method or technique shall present a significantly greater danger to the life or health of the pregnant woman than another available method or technique.

E. An abortion of a viable unborn child shall be performed or induced only when there is in attendance a physician other than the physician performing or inducing the abortion who shall take control of and provide immediate medical care for the child. During the performance or inducing of the abortion, the physician performing it, and subsequent to it, the physician required by this section to be in attendance, shall take all reasonable steps in keeping with good medical practice, consistent with the procedure used, to preserve the life and health of the child, in the same manner as if the child had been born naturally or spontaneously. The requirement of the attendance of a second physician may be waived when in the best judgment of the attending physician a medical emergency exists and further delay would result in a serious threat to the life or physical health of the pregnant woman. Provided that, under such emergency circumstances and waiver, the attending physician shall have the duty to take all reasonable steps to preserve the life and health of the child before, during and after the abortion procedure, unless such steps shall, in the best medical judgment of the physician, present a significantly greater danger to the life or health of the pregnant woman.

F. Any person violating subsection A of this section shall be guilty of homicide.

Added by Laws 1978, c. 207, § 4, eff. Oct. 1, 1978. Amended by Laws 1997, c. 133, § 524, eff. July 1, 1999.

NOTE: Laws 1998, 1st Ex.Sess., c. 2, § 23 amended the effective date of Laws 1997, c. 133, § 524 from July 1, 1998, to July 1, 1999.

#### §63-1-733. Self-induced abortions.

No woman shall perform or induce an abortion upon herself, except under the supervision of a duly licensed physician. Any physician who supervises a woman in performing or inducing an abortion upon herself shall fulfill all the requirements of this article which apply to a physician performing or inducing an abortion.

Added by Laws 1978, c. 207, § 5, eff. Oct. 1, 1978. Amended by Laws 1997, c. 133, § 525, eff. July 1, 1999.

NOTE: Laws 1998, 1st Ex.Sess., c. 2, § 23 amended the effective date of Laws 1997, c. 133, § 525 from July 1, 1998, to July 1, 1999.

#### §63-1-734. Live-born fetus - Care and treatment.

A. No person shall purposely take the life of a child born as a result of an abortion or attempted abortion which is alive when partially or totally removed from the uterus of the pregnant woman.

B. No person shall purposely take the life of a viable child who is alive while inside the uterus of the pregnant woman and may be removed alive therefrom without creating any significant danger to her life or health.

C. Any person who performs, induces, or participates in the performance or inducing of an abortion shall take all reasonable measures to preserve the life of a child who is alive when partially or totally removed from the uterus of the pregnant woman, so long as the measures do not create any significant danger to her life or health.

D. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of homicide.

Added by Laws 1978, c. 207, § 6, eff. Oct. 1, 1978. Amended by Laws 1997, c. 133, § 526, eff. July 1, 1999.

NOTE: Laws 1998, 1st Ex.Sess., c. 2, § 23 amended the effective date of Laws 1997, c. 133, § 526 from July 1, 1998, to July 1, 1999.

§63-1-735. Sale of child, unborn child or remains of child - Experiments.

A. No person shall sell a child, an unborn child or the remains of a child or an unborn child resulting from an abortion. No person shall experiment upon a child or an unborn child resulting from an abortion or which is intended to be aborted unless the experimentation is therapeutic to the child or unborn child.

B. No person shall experiment upon the remains of a child or an unborn child resulting from an abortion. The term "experiment" does not include autopsies performed according to law.

Added by Laws 1978, c. 207, § 7, eff. Oct. 1, 1978.

§63-1-736. Hospitals - Advertising of counseling to pregnant women.

Section 1-736. No hospital in which abortions are performed or induced shall advertise or hold itself out as also providing counseling to pregnant women, unless:

1. The counseling is done by a licensed physician, a licensed registered nurse or by a person holding at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in psychology or some similarly appropriate field;

2. The counseling includes factual information, including explicit discussion of the development of the unborn child; and

3. The counseling includes a thorough discussion of the alternatives to abortion and the availability of agencies and services to assist her if she chooses not to have an abortion.

Laws 1978, c. 207, § 8, eff. Oct. 1, 1978.

§63-1-737. Hospitals which may perform abortions.

An abortion otherwise permitted by law shall be performed only in a hospital, as defined in this article, which meets standards set by the Department. The Department shall develop and promulgate reasonable standards relating to abortions.

Added by Laws 1978, c. 207, § 9, eff. Oct. 1, 1978.