

Medi-Cal Abortion Services FAQ

Foster Youth, Former Foster Youth, & Transition Age Youth

Is abortion legal in California?

Yes! In California, a person has a right to have an abortion under any circumstance and without a medical reason.

Can I get my abortion covered by Medi-Cal?

Yes, California covers abortions for all Medi-Cal enrollees, including young people in foster care and former foster youth. Medi-Cal covers all services related to getting an abortion, including office visits, labwork, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, patient education, and follow-up visits. For foster youth and former foster youth, there are no out-of-pocket costs for abortion and related services in California.

Where can I get an abortion?

You can get an abortion by asking your provider (nurse-practitioners, physician assistants, doctors, etc.). If you do not know who your health care provider is, you can call your health plan. Examples of Medi-Cal health plans in California are Anthem Blue Cross, Kaiser, California Health and Wellness, and LA Care. There are many more.

You can go to any abortion provider that accepts Medi-Cal, even if they are not part of your health plan. Medi-Cal health plans cannot require your health care provider to approve you getting an abortion ahead of time, unless you are getting an abortion in the hospital.

Can I make a decision about getting an abortion on my own?

Youth of any age can get an abortion without the permission of and without having to tell their parent/guardian, spouse/partner, social worker, foster caregiver, or the biological parent of the fetus. Your health care provider also cannot tell your parent/guardian, spouse/partner, social worker, foster caregiver, or the biological parent of the fetus, that you got an abortion, unless you give the health care provider permission to tell.

What if I have trouble getting an abortion?

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE operates a free healthline to provide information, referrals, procedural, and practical support around abortion care, birth control, and other reproductive health services. You can reach ACCESS at 1-800-376-4636 or at <https://accessrj.org/access-rj-online-request-form/>.

The Health Consumer Alliance (HCA) offers free assistance over-the-phone or in-person to help people who are struggling to get or maintain health coverage and resolve problems with their health plans. Information and legal assistance is provided by phone or in-person. They are able to assist individuals accessing health care services, including abortion care. You can reach the HCA at 1-888-804-3536 (TTY 1-877-735-2929) or at <https://healthconsumer.org>.

You can call your attorney. If you are in foster care in Los Angeles County, Placer County, or Sacramento County, you can call your attorney at Children’s Law Center. You also can call your social worker and/or CASA to ask for help.

You can also talk to the Foster Care Ombuds Office. This office can provide more information about your rights and help address your complaints. To seek help go to fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov or call 1-877-846-1602 or email fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov.

Additional Resources

If you have additional questions on how to access to abortion care in California, please check out: <https://abortion.ca.gov/>.

If you have any questions on your legal rights and responsibilities related to sex, pregnancy, and/or being a young parent, please check out: <http://www.teenhealthrights.org/>.

The Reproductive Health Equity Project (RHEP) for Foster Youth brings together youth in foster care and the agencies that serve them to promote systems that normalize, support, and promote the bodily autonomy and healthy sexual development of youth in foster care. This is a great resource if you have more general questions on reproductive health: <https://fosterreprohealth.org/>.

For more information on mental health resources, please check out: [insert link].

For more information about accessing Medi-Cal support for transportation, please see this resource from Maternal Child and Health Access: <https://www.mchaccess.org/pdfs/alerts/MCHA%20NMT%20Aug%202022.pdf>.

For more information on general reproductive health care coverage in Medi-Cal, please check out: <https://healthlaw.org/storage/documents/NHeLP-ReproHC-MediCal-Web-F.pdf>.

