

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Reproductive freedom is one of the most personal decisions we can make. All too often, discussions about reproductive rights seem mired in politics rather than focused on our daily lives. The government has great amounts of power to be able to dictate our private morality, which needs to be stopped. ACLU-TN is committed to protecting a woman's right to choose.

HISTORY

As early as 1923, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution protects personal decisions regarding marriage and the family from governmental intrusion. In 1965, the Court ruled that a state cannot prohibit a married couple from practicing contraception. In 1972, it extended the right to use birth control to all people, married or single. And in its 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, the Court held that the Constitution's protections of privacy as a fundamental right encompass a woman's decision to have an abortion.

The *Roe* decision, which legalized abortion nationwide, led to a dramatic improvement in the lives and health of women. Before *Roe*, women experiencing unwanted or crisis pregnancies faced the perils and indignities of self-induced abortion, back-alley abortion, or forced childbirth. Today, *Roe* protects the right of women to make life choices in keeping with their conscience or religious beliefs, consistent with American tradition. And by relieving American women of the burden of unwanted pregnancies, *Roe* has permitted them to pursue economic opportunities on a more equal basis with men.

The Tennessee Supreme Court held in the ACLU-TN case *Planned Parenthood v. Sundquist* that abortion was a fundamental right under the Tennessee Constitution.

In 2015, voters amended the Tennessee Constitution to overturn this decision, adding language to the constitution stating that abortion is no longer a fundamental, constitutionally-protected right in Tennessee. On the heels of the amendment's adoption, the Tennessee General Assembly established several new restrictions on abortion, including a 48-hour waiting period for women seeking an abortion.

TENNESSEE LAW

Though not a fundamental right under the Tennessee Constitution, Tennessee law does currently protect the right to an abortion until viability of the fetus. TCA §39-15-201(C). After viability, an abortion can only be performed if it is to protect the woman's life or health. In Tennessee every physician has the right to refuse to terminate a pregnancy.

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR MINORS

Tennessee law mandates that a minor (under the age of 18 and not emancipated) must have consent of at least one parent in order to get an abortion. This requirement can be waived however, with a court order. The process to obtain the court order is referred to as "Judicial Bypass Waiver."

RESOURCES – NATIONAL AND STATE

ACLU-TN provides the following list of resources for informational purposes only. ACLU-TN does not endorse any of the organizations listed.

National Organizations

[ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project](#)

125 Broad Street

New York, NY 10004-2400

Website: <https://www.aclu.org/about-aclu-reproductive-freedom-project>

Phone: 212-549-2500

Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project seeks to uphold the rights of individuals to decide freely, without governmental hindrance or coercion, whether or not to bear a child. The project strives to ensure that everyone has access to sexuality education, contraception, abortion, prenatal care, and childbearing assistance.



P.O. Box 120160, Nashville, TN 37212

Tel: 615.320.7142

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Center for Reproductive Rights

New York Headquarters
199 Water Street
New York, NY 10038

Website: <http://www.reproductiverights.org/>

Phone: 917-637-3600

Fax: 917-637-3666

The Center for Reproductive Rights uses the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right that all governments are legally obligated to protect, respect, and fulfill.

Exhale

1714 Franklin Street #100-141
Oakland, CA 94612

Website: <https://exhaleprovoice.org/>

Phone: 510-446-7900

Fax: 309-410-1127

After-Abortion Talkline: 1-866-4-EXHALE
(1-866-439-4253)

E-mail: info@exhaleprovoice.org

Exhale works to address the emotional health and well-being of women and men after abortion.

National Abortion Federation

1660 L Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20036

Website: <http://prochoice.org/>

Phone: 202-667-5881

Fax: 202-667-5890

Hotline: 800-772-9100

For Referrals: 877-257-0012

E-mail: naf@prochoice.org

The mission of the National Abortion Federation is to ensure safe, legal, and accessible abortion care, which promotes health and justice for women.

NARAL Pro-Choice America

1156 15th Street, NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Website: <http://www.naral.org/>

Phone: 202-973-3000

Fax: 202-973-3096

NARAL is an organization made up of pro-choice women and men across the United States working together to protect and expand reproductive freedom.

Planned Parenthood

New York, NY

Phone: 212-541-7800

Fax: 212-245-1845

Washington, DC

Phone: 202-973-4800

Fax: 202-296-3242

Website: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>

Planned Parenthood is one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable health care for women, men, and young people, and the nation's largest provider of sex education.

Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project (WRRAP)

239 ½ Beverly Glen Circle, Box #169
Los Angeles, CA 90077

Website: <http://www.wrrap.org/>

WRRAP is a non-partisan, non-profit organization helping women gain access to safe, legal abortion services and emergency contraceptives. WRRAP works with pre-qualified, reputable reproductive health clinics across the U.S. on behalf of disadvantaged women in need.

State Organizations

Choices-Memphis Center for Reproductive Health

1726 Poplar Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

Website: <http://memphischoices.org/>

Phone: 901-274-3550

Toll Free: 800-843-9894

Fax: 901-274-3551

Choices provides comprehensive reproductive healthcare to women, men and teens. The goal of the non-profit clinic



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is to transform the way reproductive health care is perceived and provided in the community.

Healthy and Free Tennessee

1726 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104

Website: <http://healthyandfreetn.org/>

Phone: 901-791-9385

Healthy and Free Tennessee is a non-partisan coalition of groups and individuals working together to promote and protect sexual health and reproductive freedom across the state.

Knoxville Center for Reproductive Health

1547 West Clinch Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Website: <http://kcrh.com/>

Phone: 865-637-3861

Toll Free: 800-325-5357

Knoxville Center for Reproductive Health is a small not-for-profit educational reproductive health center dedicated to providing women with a wide range of medical services, including pregnancy testing, routine gynecological care, medical abortions, first and second trimester surgical abortions, morning after pill, family planning counseling and contraceptive options.

Planned Parenthood

Website: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>

Planned Parenthood is one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable health care for women, men, and young people, and the nation's largest provider of sex education.

Knoxville Health Center

710 North Cherry Street
Knoxville, TN 37914

Phone: 865-694-7155

Fax: 865-694-7154

Memphis Health Center

2430 Poplar Avenue, Suite 100
Memphis, TN 38112

Phone: 901-725-1717

Fax: 901-724-1660

Nashville Health Center

412 Dr. D.B. Todd, Jr. Blvd.

Nashville, TN 37203

Phone: 615-321-7216

Fax: 615-320-5233

SisterReach

1750 Madison Avenue
Suite 600

Memphis, TN 38104

Website: <https://sisterreach.org>

Phone: 901-222-4425

Fax: 901-222-4441

E-mail: contactus@sisterreach.org

SisterReach is a grassroots organization focused on empowering, organizing and mobilizing women and girls in the community around their reproductive and sexual health to make informed decisions about themselves, therefore to become advocates for themselves.

The Women's Center

419 Welshwood Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

Website: <http://www.nashvillewomenscenter.com/>

Phone: 615-331-1200 or 1-800-847-5107

The Women's Center offers surgical and medical abortions. The center also provides gynecological services, including but not limited to annual exams, pap testing, STD testing, ultrasounds, pregnancy testing and birth control options.

Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga

801 N. Holtzclaw Avenue, Suite 125
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Website: <http://www.chattanoogaowomensfund.com/>

Phone: 423-752-4199

The Women's fund of Greater Chattanooga unites advocates, donors, and activists striving for social change that improves life for women and girls across the region.



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