



Connecticut | RANKING: 40

Connecticut law evinces a profound disrespect for human life, providing for a broad state constitutional “right” to abortion and failing to adequately protect unborn victims of violence. Moreover, it permits cloning for biomedical research and destructive embryo research.

ABORTION

- The Connecticut Supreme Court has determined that the state constitution protects the “right” to an abortion as a fundamental right and to a greater extent than that interpreted in the U.S. Constitution.
- Connecticut maintains a Freedom of Choice Act, mandating a legal right to abortion even if *Roe v. Wade* is eventually overturned. The Act specifically provides that “[t]he decision to terminate a pregnancy prior to the viability of the fetus shall be solely that of the pregnant woman in consultation with her physician.”
- Connecticut law requires that all women considering abortion receive counseling on the type of abortion procedure to be used and the discomfort and risks involved in that procedure.
- In addition to counseling on the type of abortion procedure and its inherent risks, minors must also receive information on the alternatives to abortion and public and private agencies that can provide them with assistance. Further, a qualified counselor must discuss the possibility of the minor involving a parent or other adult in her abortion decision, but there is no parental involvement requirement.
- Connecticut mandates that abortion facilities meet rudimentary health and safety standards. The regulations prescribe minimum standards for the building or facility, patient medical testing, and the maintenance of patient records.
- Connecticut limits the performance of abortions to licensed physicians.
- It has an enforceable abortion reporting law but does not require the reporting of information to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The measure applies to both surgical and nonsurgical abortions and requires abortion providers to report short-term complications.
- Connecticut taxpayers are required by court order to fund “medically necessary” abortions for women eligible for public assistance. This requirement essentially equates to funding abortion-on-demand in light of the U.S. Supreme Court’s broad definition of “health” in the context of abortion.
- Connecticut offers “Choose Life” license plates, the proceeds of which benefit organizations providing abortion alternatives.

LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN AND NEWLY BORN INFANTS

- Connecticut defines an assault on a pregnant woman resulting in “the termination of pregnancy that does not result in live birth” as a crime. The law recognizes an affirmative defense if the defendant did not know that the victim was pregnant at the time of the assault.

- Connecticut allows a parent or other relative to bring a wrongful death (civil) lawsuit when a viable unborn child is killed through the negligent or criminal act of another.
- It funds drug treatment programs for pregnant women and newborns.

BIOETHICS LAWS

- Connecticut prohibits cloning to produce children but allows cloning for biomedical research, making it a “clone and kill” state. It also permits and funds destructive embryo research, while also permitting human cloning.
- Connecticut has appropriated at least \$10 million to its Regenerative Medicine Research Fund, funding both embryonic and adult stem-cell research. It does not prohibit fetal experimentation.
- Connecticut requires a physician to provide a woman in the last trimester of pregnancy with information regarding options to bank or donate umbilical cord blood. The Connecticut Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Board has been directed to engage in public education and establish an umbilical cord blood collection program.
- Connecticut regulates assisted reproductive technologies. For example, only persons certified to practice medicine in the state may perform artificial insemination.
- Connecticut prohibits direct or indirect payment for the donation of human eggs for stem-cell research.

PATIENT PROTECTION LAWS

- Assisting a suicide constitutes manslaughter.
- Connecticut enacted a “right to try” measure allowing certain terminally ill patients, under specified conditions, to use investigational drugs.

HEALTHCARE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

PARTICIPATION IN ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTION

- Under Connecticut law, no person is required to participate in any phase of an abortion against his or her judgment or religious, moral, or philosophical beliefs.
- Health insurance plans that provide prescription coverage must also provide coverage for contraception. Certain conscience exemptions apply to religious employers or organizations.

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH HARMFUL TO HUMAN LIFE

- Connecticut currently provides no protection for the rights of healthcare providers who conscientiously object to participation in human cloning, destructive embryo research, or other forms of medical research that violate a provider’s moral or religious beliefs.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER *ROE* IS OVERTURNED?

- Abortion will be legal throughout pregnancy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONNECTICUT

WOMEN'S PROTECTION PROJECT PRIORITIES

- Enhanced penalties and enforcement mechanisms for the state's abortion-related laws
 - Women's Right to Know Act with reflection period
 - Coercive Abuse Against Mothers Prevention Act
 - Women's Health Protection Act (abortion clinic regulations, emergency transfer and admission provisions)
 - Drug-Induced Abortion Information and Reporting Act
 - Parental Notification for Abortion Act
 - Child Protection Act
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INFANTS' PROTECTION PROJECT PRIORITIES

- Unborn Infants Dignity Act
 - Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act
 - Perinatal Hospice Information Act
 - Born-Alive Infant Protection Act
 - Unborn Infants Wrongful Death Act (for a pre-viable child)
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PATIENT PROTECTION ACT PRIORITIES

- Joint Resolution Opposing Suicide by Physician
 - Charlie Gard Act (formerly the Life Sustaining Care Act)
 - Pain Medication Education Act
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ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ABORTION

- State Constitutional Amendment (providing that there is no state constitutional right to abortion)
- Repeal of State FOCA
- Defunding the Abortion Industry and Advancing Women's Health Act
- Federal Abortion-Mandate Opt-Out Act

LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN

- Crimes Against the Unborn Child Act
- Pregnant Woman's Protection Act

BIOETHICS

- Repeal of existing laws permitting human cloning, destructive embryo research, and the funding of these practices

HEALTHCARE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

- Healthcare Freedom of Conscience Act