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**LEGISLATION**

Federal Law 23 January 1974, effective in January 1975 (Bundesgesetzblatt, No. 60, 1974)

**GROUNDINGS/GESTATIONAL LIMITS**

**Up to three months from completed implantation:**

- On request

**Second trimester:**

- Serious risk to physical health of women (that cannot be averted by other means)
- Risk to mental health of women (that cannot be averted by other means)
- Immediate risk to life of woman (that cannot be averted by other means)
- Serious foetal impairment (physical or mental)
- Woman is a minor (under 14 years)

**REGULATIONS/CONDITIONS**

- Abortion must be performed by a physician after a previous medical consultation
- No physician is obliged to perform an abortion or to take part in it, except where it is necessary without delay to save the life of the pregnant woman from an immediately threatening danger which cannot otherwise be averted.

**COST**

- Induced abortion not paid for by (normal) health insurance
- State hospitals: € 300–840 (US\$ 388–1085)
- Private abortion clinics: € 350–450 (US\$ 452–581)
- Private practitioners: € 450 (US\$ 581)

**DISPARITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW:**

- *Due to conscientious objection from both medical personnel and hospital management, abortion facilities are not readily available all over the country*
- *According to the law, abortion can be performed up to 3 months after completed implantation, but in practice they are performed up to 12 weeks after Last Menstrual Period even though there is no legal basis for this.*
- *According to the law, abortion can be performed by a physician. But the regulation for Mifegyne allows the use of the drug only in hospitals and clinics, therefore medical abortion can be performed only in hospitals and clinics. There are two private clinics specialised in abortion in Vienna. They also offer medical abortion*
- *Very few public hospitals are offering abortion at a reasonable price (appr. 5 hospitals are offering abortion for less than € 350). It is difficult for women to get an abortion especially outside Vienna and outside of other big cities*
- *Very few doctors perform abortions in private practice in rural areas*
- *Abortion tourism takes place from West to East Austria. Between 100 and 200 women per year are still going to the Netherlands to get a late second trimester abortion since after the 18<sup>th</sup> week, it is hardly possible to get an abortion in Austria.*

**COMMENTS:**

- *Public information on the availability of abortion services is very scarce. Statistics are not available. However, it is believed that illegal abortion is not practised on any scale.*