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LEGISLATION

Law on termination of pregnancy, 1 May 1981;
Decree of 17 May 1984 laying down provisions for the implementation of the law.

GROUNDINGS/GESTATIONAL LIMITS

Up to thirteen weeks:

- On request

Up to fetal viability:

- If the pregnant woman attests to a state of distress, to be jointly defined by the woman and the doctor

REGULATIONS/CONDITIONS

- In the law, no gestational limits for an abortion are set. But the fetal viability is mentioned as a limit. Fetal viability is set at 24 weeks. However, clinics stick to 22 weeks, keeping a margin of two weeks.
- Parental or guardian's consent required for minors (under 16 years)
- Compulsory waiting period (5 days) (except to avert an imminent danger to the woman's life or health)
- A physician is obliged to determine whether the woman took the decision freely
- An abortion may be performed only by a physician in a licensed hospital or clinic
- The hospital or clinic has to ensure that an adequate opportunity is made available for providing the woman with responsible information on methods of preventing unwanted pregnancies

COST

Women are reimbursed (except those living abroad)

DISPARITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW:

COMMENTS:

The law is very liberally interpreted. Illegal abortion is almost non-existent. Most abortions are performed in non-profit clinics