

**The NETHERLANDS**  
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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*