

NORWAY

Norsk forening for seksualitet, samliv og reproduktiv helse (NSSR)

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LEGISLATION

Act N° 50, 13 June 1975, "Relating to the Termination of Pregnancy"

Law N° 66, Sec 1-4, 16 June 1978

GROUNDINGS/GESTATIONAL LIMITS

Up to 12 weeks:

- On request

After the 12th week:

- If the pregnancy, childbirth or care of the child may result in unreasonable strain upon the physical or mental health of the woman
- If the pregnancy, childbirth or care of the child may place the woman in difficult circumstances
- If there is a major risk that the child may suffer from a serious disease
- Rape or other sexual crime
- If the woman is suffering from severe mental illness or is mentally retarded to a considerable degree

After the 18th week:

- Only for extremely severe reasons; if there is reason to assume that the foetus is viable, authorization may not be granted.

REGULATIONS/CONDITIONS

- For second trimester abortions, women's applications have to be submitted to a Board of two doctors. If the committee denies the approval, there is the possibility for the woman to apply to another committee
- If the woman is younger than 16, the person exercising parental authority or the guardian shall be given an opportunity to express his/her views, unless there are particular reasons to the contrary. If the minor does not get the parental or guardian's consent, the abortion may only be performed with the consent of the county medical officer.
- The doctor consulted is under obligation to inform the woman about how the abortion is carried out, and possible complications
- If a woman decides not to have an abortion, her doctor is obliged to notify her that she can ask for information about the support provided by society. The woman is not obliged to ask for this information, but when she signs the request for abortion she has to confirm that she has been notified that she can get more information about the support in society.
- Women have also the right, if they request it, to receive counselling on contraceptive methods, at the time of abortion
- When assessing a request for an abortion on the first three grounds (second trimester) mentioned above, account must be taken of the woman's overall situation, including the extent to which she can provide the child with satisfactory care. Major considerations must be given to the woman's own assessment of her situation.
- The conditions for authorizing an abortion become more stringent as the duration of the pregnancy increases.
- Abortions may only be performed by a physician. Beyond 12 weeks of pregnancy, abortions may only be performed in a hospital
- Where the pregnancy constitutes an impending risk to the woman's life or health, it may be terminated without regard to the legal provisions.

COST

Free of charge

DISPARITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW:

None

COMMENTS:

- *There is a conscientious objection, under which hospital staff can avoid participating in the operation itself, but cannot refuse to help pre- and post-operation*
- *The regional hospital enterprises must organise hospital services in order to make it possible at any time, for resident women, to obtain abortions*