

SWITZERLAND
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Sexuelle et Reproductive
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LEGISLATION

Penal Code Act, articles 118-121, January 1942, was modified on 23 March 2001 and adopted after 2 June 2002 referendum. The new law (Penal Code Act, articles 118-120) has become effective on 1 October 2002

GROUNDINGS/GESTATIONAL LIMITS

Up to 12 weeks (from LMP) (10 weeks from conception):

- On request

After 12 weeks (from LMP):

- If according to a medical opinion, the abortion is necessary to avert a serious risk to the physical integrity of the woman or several mental distress (which includes rape, incest, malformation of foetus)

The later the pregnancy, the more serious the risk has to be.

REGULATIONS/CONDITIONS

- The woman has to file a written request stating that she is in a situation of distress
- The doctor has to give the woman comprehensive information. He has to discuss the decision with her in detail, hand her out an information sheet with addresses of counselling services and services where she can get moral and material help and be informed about adoption
- Minors under 16 have to see a counsellor at a counselling service for adolescents
- Parental consent (or information) is not required for minors capable of discernment (even if they are under 16)
- Consent from the woman's legal representative is required if the woman is incapable of discernment.

COST

- Health insurance covers the costs of the lawful termination, under the same terms as illness (Art. 30 Federal Law, March 18, 1994)
- Approximately between CHF 600 - 3000 (US\$ 478-2392), for first trimester abortions

DISPARITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW:

COMMENTS:

- *Most abortions are performed on psycho-social grounds*
- *The practice has become more liberal over the last 25 years*
- *Access to RU 486 up to 7 weeks of pregnancy is very good in Switzerland since 2000. 50% or even more of all abortions are medical abortions.*
- *After 14 weeks of pregnancy, it is still difficult to obtain an abortion except in very severe cases*
- *Regional differences and "abortion tourism" within Switzerland are rapidly disappearing*