

ITALY
**Unione Italiana dei Centri di Educazione
Matrimoniale e Prematrimoniale (UICEMP)**
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LEGISLATION

Law 194, 22 May 1978

GROUNDINGS/GESTATIONAL LIMITS

Up to 90 days (between 12 and 13 weeks)

- If continuing the pregnancy, childbirth or motherhood would seriously endanger the woman's physical or mental health
- The woman's state of health
- Economic, social or family circumstances
- Circumstances in which conception occurred
- Probability that the child would be born with abnormalities or malformations

Over 90 days:

- If the pregnancy or childbirth entails a serious threat to the woman's life
- Risk to physical health of woman
- Risk to mental health of woman
- Risk of fetal malformation
- Rape or other sexual crime

REGULATIONS/CONDITIONS

- A certificate from a fully authorized medico-social agency, a public counselling centre or a physician of the woman's choice is needed.
- Compulsory waiting period of at least 7 days (if abortion is found not to be urgently required)
- The consent of the person exercising parental authority or her guardian is needed from woman under 18. There are exceptions. Consent is not needed in case of a serious threat to the health of the minor. Or if, during the first 90 days, there are serious grounds rendering it impossible or inadvisable to consult these persons, or if those persons refuse their consent, then the magistrate responsible for matters of guardianship decides. Or if there is an imminent threat to the life of the woman.
- Parental or judge's consent required for minors (under 18 years)
- Pre-abortion counselling (not compulsory)

COST

Free of charge for all women, including immigrant women, foreigners and women without legal resident's permit

METHODS

Mifepristone is not registered for medical abortion use during the first trimester.

Surgical abortion is the most common method.

DISPARITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW:

In some Regions (mainly in Southern Italy) and in rural areas, there may be disparities between the law and its application. In these areas it can be very difficult for a minor to have an abortion without her parents' consent because the local minor's judge would not give his/her consent to abortion. Furthermore the fact that people know each other and are known by hospital staff encourages use of illegal abortion

COMMENTS:

- *There is considerable conscientious objection among health personnel on religious, moral and social grounds. Illegal abortions are still numerous*
- *In some Italian regions (mainly northern and central), abortion is fairly widely accessible in spite of conscientious objection by gynaecologists. In southern regions there are still problems mainly related to conscientious objection and long waiting lists*