

SWEDEN
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LEGISLATION

Abortion Act 595, 14 June 1974, amended 1995:660 and 2007:998

GROUNDINGS/GESTATIONAL LIMITS

Up to 18 weeks

- On request

Up to 22 weeks (foetal viability)

- 'Strong reasons'

No limit

- If it is presumable that, owing to illness or bodily defect on the part of the woman, the pregnancy entails a serious danger to her life or health (with permission of the National Board of Health and Welfare)

REGULATIONS/CONDITIONS

- Second trimester abortions are subject to approval by the National Board of Health and Welfare
- Abortion must be carried out in a general hospital or private clinic approved by National Board of Health and Welfare and by a qualified medical doctor

METHODS

Medical abortion up to 63 days was approved in Sweden in 1992. In 2007, 79.9% of abortions carried out before the end of the 9th week of gestation were medical abortions.

Almost 75% of all induced abortions are performed before the end of the 9th week of pregnancy. The number of abortions performed after the 18th week of gestation represents 1% of the total.

COST

The cost is almost fully covered by the National Health Insurance. Patients only have to pay a minor fee. The fees slightly differ from county to county and are reviewed yearly. They range between SEK 260 (US\$ 37) and 380 (US\$ 54).

DISPARITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW:

None

COMMENTS:

- *Sweden has a very good and well-functioning abortion law but there are some anti-choice activities against the Abortion Act, these groups are small but loud with around 17,000 members, mainly connected to a religious sect called 'The word of life'*
- *The Abortion law is combined with a law making contraceptive services free of charge and*

subsidizing the price of contraceptives, the government also carries on prevention activities, provides funds for a long-term health education programme aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies, and also funds civil society for sexuality and contraceptive information initiatives

- *Since 2008, the law allows foreign women to have an abortion in Sweden.*