

Who can help me in this process?

Women's Medical Fund

(215) 564-4070 Administrative Line

Help with completing the certification forms.

Women's Law Project

(215) 928-9801

Legal assistance with an abortion.

Who can help my patient?

Women's Medical Fund

(215) 564-6622 Help Line

Funding for abortions in southeastern PA.

CHOICE

(215) 985-3300

Toll-free (800) 848-3367

En Español (215) 985-3350

Help finding abortion providers.

WMF MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Joan Adler, MD

Richard Neill, MD

Gene Bishop, MD

Carol Rogers, PA

Vicky Borgia, MD

Courtney Schreiber, MD

Amy Brodkey, MD

Steve Sondheimer, MD

Linda Dunn, MD

Toba Spector, CRNP, MSN



Women's Medical Fund... the abortion access fund

The Women's Medical Fund provides direct financial assistance and other support to low-income women and girls in southeastern Pennsylvania who wish to terminate an unwanted pregnancy but cannot afford a safe legal abortion.

The Women's Medical Fund also raises public awareness of the devastating impact of denying access to safe legal abortions.

Women's Medical Fund

P.O. Box 59555

Philadelphia, PA 19102-5955

Help line: 215.564.6622

Admin: 215.564.4070

womensmedicalfund.org

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE *for* ABORTION IN PENNSYLVANIA

*Information for Health Care
Providers on
Pennsylvania Law*

With assistance from:
Women's Law Project, CHOICE, and
National Network of Abortion Funds

Medical Assistance in Pennsylvania pays for an abortion:

- If a woman is pregnant from rape or incest or,
- An abortion is necessary to save the woman's life

She must also be currently enrolled in Medical Assistance and under 24 weeks pregnant.

FAQ: ABORTION, RAPE, AND INCEST

What is rape?

Rape is defined as sexual intercourse:

- By force (hitting, kicking, using a weapon)
- By threatening to hurt the woman
- When she is drugged or unconscious
- When she can't consent due to mental illness or retardation
- If she is younger than 13
- If she is younger than 16 and the male is four or more years older

All of these situations are rape, even if she knows the person or had sex with him before!

What is incest?

Incest is sex with a parent, adoptive parent, child, grandparent, brother, half-brother, uncle, or nephew.

It does not matter how old the people involved are or whether force was used.

Does a woman need to file a police report for Medical Assistance to pay for her abortion?

No! If both the woman and her physician sign the form stating that she is physically or psychologically unable to report the rape, she does not have to report the rape.

What if she wants to file a police report?

The rape survivor does not have to know the rapist's name or the exact date of the assault for Medical Assistance coverage for her abortion. A report can be filed at any time.

What if a minor is raped?

If she is under 18 and has been raped by a family member or caretaker, physicians and other health care providers are required to notify the appropriate child protective services on her behalf.

How can a physician be sure a woman is telling the truth?

If the woman makes a false statement in signing the form, she can be prosecuted. However, a physician is not responsible for a patient's false statement.

FAQ: ABORTION AND SERIOUS ILLNESS

How sick must a woman be for Medical Assistance to pay for her abortion?

If continuing her pregnancy would endanger her life, Medical Assistance will pay for an abortion.

The life threat may be due to a physical or mental illness. It may be caused by a pre-existing or a pregnancy-related condition.

Life threat refers to an increase in the relative risk of death. There need not be 100% certainty that continuing the pregnancy will result in the woman's death.

What are some examples?

Some examples of a life-threatening physical illness are cancer, AIDS, or high blood pressure. An example of life-threatening mental illness is suicidal ideation.

What if the woman has travel expenses?

Medical Assistance is required to pay a patient's transportation expenses to any Medical Assistance-covered medical service.

Call the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) for more information.

How do I arrange Medical Assistance payment for my patient?

If the woman was raped:

- The woman completes a *Recipient Statement* form (MA-368).
- The physician completes a *Physician Certification for an Abortion* form (MA-3).

If the woman's life is at risk, only the *Physician Certification for an Abortion* form (MA-3) is needed.

Any physician who is providing her with medical treatment can sign the form, including her primary care physician and her abortion provider.

Where can I get these forms?

For your convenience, the Women's Medical Fund or CHOICE will fax the forms upon request. They are also available on the Department of Health website.