

## CHAPTER 2011-224

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1127

An act relating to abortions; amending s. 390.0111, F.S.; requiring that an ultrasound be performed on a woman obtaining an abortion; specifying who must perform an ultrasound; requiring that the ultrasound be reviewed with the patient before the woman gives informed consent for the abortion procedure; specifying who must review the ultrasound with the patient; requiring that the woman certify in writing that she declined to review the ultrasound and did so of her own free will and without undue influence; providing an exemption from the requirement to view the ultrasound for women who are the victims of rape, incest, domestic violence, or human trafficking or for women who have a serious medical condition necessitating the abortion; revising requirements for written materials; providing that failure to comply with the requirements of the section constitutes grounds for disciplinary action; requiring rulemaking; amending s. 390.012, F.S.; requiring an ultrasound for all patients regardless of when the abortion is performed; requiring the agency to adopt rules requiring clinics to comply with s. 390.0111, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to reviewing ultrasound evaluation results, to conform to changes made by the act; providing for severability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 390.0111, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (12) and (13) are added to that section, to read:

390.0111 Termination of pregnancies.—

(3) **CONSENTS REQUIRED.**—A termination of pregnancy may not be performed or induced except with the voluntary and informed written consent of the pregnant woman or, in the case of a mental incompetent, the voluntary and informed written consent of her court-appointed guardian.

(a) Except in the case of a medical emergency, consent to a termination of pregnancy is voluntary and informed only if:

1. The physician who is to perform the procedure, or the referring physician, has, at a minimum, orally, in person, informed the woman of:

a. The nature and risks of undergoing or not undergoing the proposed procedure that a reasonable patient would consider material to making a knowing and willful decision of whether to terminate a pregnancy.

b. The probable gestational age of the fetus, verified by an ultrasound, at the time the termination of pregnancy is to be performed.

(I) The ultrasound must be performed by the physician who is to perform the abortion or by a person having documented evidence that he or she has completed a course in the operation of ultrasound equipment as prescribed by rule and who is working in conjunction with the physician.

(II) The person performing the ultrasound must offer the woman the opportunity to view the live ultrasound images and hear an explanation of them. If the woman accepts the opportunity to view the images and hear the explanation, a physician or a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant working in conjunction with the physician must contemporaneously review and explain the images to the woman before the woman gives informed consent to having an abortion procedure performed.

(III) The woman has a right to decline to view and hear the explanation of the live ultrasound images after she is informed of her right and offered an opportunity to view the images and hear the explanation. If the woman declines, the woman shall complete a form acknowledging that she was offered an opportunity to view and hear the explanation of the images but that she declined that opportunity. The form must also indicate that the woman's decision was not based on any undue influence from any person to discourage her from viewing the images or hearing the explanation and that she declined of her own free will.

(IV) Unless requested by the woman, the person performing the ultrasound may not offer the opportunity to view the images and hear the explanation and the explanation may not be given if, at the time the woman schedules or arrives for her appointment to obtain an abortion, a copy of a restraining order, police report, medical record, or other court order or documentation is presented which provides evidence that the woman is obtaining the abortion because the woman is a victim of rape, incest, domestic violence, or human trafficking or that the woman has been diagnosed as having a condition that, on the basis of a physician's good faith clinical judgment, would create a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function if the woman delayed terminating her pregnancy.

c. The medical risks to the woman and fetus of carrying the pregnancy to term.

2. Printed materials prepared and provided by the department have been provided to the pregnant woman, if she chooses to view these materials, including:

a. A description of the fetus, including a description of the various stages of development.

b. A list of entities agencies that offer alternatives to terminating the pregnancy.

c. Detailed information on the availability of medical assistance benefits for prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care.

3. The woman acknowledges in writing, before the termination of pregnancy, that the information required to be provided under this subsection has been provided.

Nothing in this paragraph is intended to prohibit a physician from providing any additional information which the physician deems material to the woman’s informed decision to terminate her pregnancy.

(b) ~~If in the event~~ a medical emergency exists and a physician cannot comply with the requirements for informed consent, a physician may terminate a pregnancy if he or she has obtained at least one corroborative medical opinion attesting to the medical necessity for emergency medical procedures and to the fact that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty the continuation of the pregnancy would threaten the life of the pregnant woman. ~~If a in the event no~~ second physician is not available for a corroborating opinion, the physician may proceed but shall document reasons for the medical necessity in the patient’s medical records.

(c) Violation of this subsection by a physician constitutes grounds for disciplinary action under s. 458.331 or s. 459.015. Substantial compliance or reasonable belief that complying with the requirements of informed consent would threaten the life or health of the patient is a defense to any action brought under this paragraph.

(12) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—Failure to comply with the requirements of this section constitutes grounds for disciplinary action under each respective practice act and under s. 456.072.

(13) RULES.—The applicable boards, or the department if there is no board, shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 390.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

390.012 Powers of agency; rules; disposal of fetal remains.—

(3) For clinics that perform or claim to perform abortions after the first trimester of pregnancy, the agency shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this chapter, including the following:

(d) Rules relating to the medical screening and evaluation of each abortion clinic patient. At a minimum, these rules shall require:

1. A medical history including reported allergies to medications, anti-septic solutions, or latex; past surgeries; and an obstetric and gynecological history.

2. A physical examination, including a bimanual examination estimating uterine size and palpation of the adnexa.

3. The appropriate laboratory tests, including:

a. ~~For an abortion in which an ultrasound examination is not performed before the abortion procedure,~~ Urine or blood tests for pregnancy performed before the abortion procedure.

b. A test for anemia.

c. Rh typing, unless reliable written documentation of blood type is available.

d. Other tests as indicated from the physical examination.

4. An ultrasound evaluation for all patients ~~who elect to have an abortion after the first trimester.~~ The rules shall require that if a person who is not a physician performs an ultrasound examination, that person shall have documented evidence that he or she has completed a course in the operation of ultrasound equipment as prescribed in rule. The rules shall require clinics to be in compliance with s. 390.0111. ~~The physician, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant shall review, at the request of the patient, the ultrasound evaluation results, including an estimate of the probable gestational age of the fetus, with the patient before the abortion procedure is performed.~~

5. That the physician is responsible for estimating the gestational age of the fetus based on the ultrasound examination and obstetric standards in keeping with established standards of care regarding the estimation of fetal age as defined in rule and shall write the estimate in the patient's medical history. The physician shall keep original prints of each ultrasound examination of a patient in the patient's medical history file.

Section 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

Approved by the Governor June 24, 2011.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 24, 2011.