



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Ministry of Health  
and Social Affairs, Sweden**

## The Abortion Act

1974:595

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Promulgated:  
19 May 2005

With amendments up to:  
and including Swedish  
Code of Statutes:  
2005:294

Date of entry into force:  
1 July 2005

Date of translation:  
1 February 2006

## Section 1

If a woman requests termination of her pregnancy, an abortion may be performed if the procedure is performed before the end of the eighteenth week of pregnancy and it may not be assumed that it will entail serious danger to the woman's life or health on account of her having an illness. Act (1995:660).

## Section 2

If a woman has requested an abortion or if the question of termination of pregnancy has arisen under the provisions of Section 6, she must be offered counselling before the procedure is performed. Act (1995:660).

## Section 3

After the end of the eighteenth week of pregnancy an abortion may be performed only if the National Board of Health and Welfare has granted the woman permission for the procedure. Such permission may only be granted if exceptional grounds exist for the abortion.

Permission under the provisions of the first paragraph may not be granted if there is reason to assume that the foetus is viable.

## Section 4

If an abortion in a case referred to under Section 1 is refused, the matter shall be immediately referred to the National Board of Health and Welfare for review. Act (1995:660).

## Section 5

Abortion or termination of pregnancy under the provisions of Section 6 may only be performed if the woman is a citizen of Sweden or resident here in Sweden or, in other cases, if the National Board of Health and Welfare grants the woman permission for the procedure for special reasons.

Only a person authorised to practise medicine may perform an abortion or terminate a pregnancy under the provisions of Section 6. The procedure must be performed at a general hospital or other medical institution approved by the National Board of Health and Welfare. Act (1995:660).

## Section 6

If it may be assumed that the pregnancy entails grave danger to the life or health of the woman, on account of her having an illness or bodily defect, the National Board of Health and Welfare may give permission to terminate the pregnancy after the end of the eighteenth week of pregnancy, regardless of how far the pregnancy has progressed.

Without the permission of the National Board of Health and Welfare and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5, termination of pregnancy on account of illness or bodily defect referred to in the first paragraph may be performed by a person authorised to practise medicine, if the procedure cannot be deferred without danger to the woman. Act (1995:660).

## Section 7

The decisions of the National Board of Health and Welfare regarding permission for abortion or termination of pregnancy under the provisions of Section 6 may not be appealed. Act (1995:660).

#### **Section 8**

After an abortion or termination of pregnancy under the provisions of Section 6 the woman must be offered counselling. The person in charge at the hospital or health care facility where the procedure has been performed must ensure that such an offer is made. Act (1995:660).

#### **Section 9**

Any person who, without being authorised to practise medicine, intentionally performs an abortion on another person shall be fined or imprisoned for a maximum of one year for illegal abortion.

If an offence referred to in the first paragraph is gross, a prison sentence of a minimum of six months and a maximum of four years shall be imposed. When assessing whether the offence is gross special consideration shall be given to whether the act was habitual or for profit or involved particular danger to the woman's life or health.

An attempt to bring about an illegal abortion is punishable under Chapter 23 of the Penal Code.

#### **Section 10**

The intentional disregard by a medical practitioner of the provisions of Section 4 or, subject to Section 6, second paragraph, of Section 3 or Section 5, shall be punishable by a fine or imprisonment of a maximum of six months.

#### **Section 11**

The proceeds of an offence under this Act shall be declared forfeited, unless this is manifestly unreasonable. Act (2005:294).