

HEALTH & SAFETY CODE

CHAPTER 170. PROHIBITED ACTS REGARDING ABORTION

Sec. 170.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Abortion" means an act involving the use of an instrument, medicine, drug, or other substance or device developed to terminate the pregnancy of a woman if the act is done with an intention other than to:

(A) increase the probability of a live birth of the unborn child of the woman;

(B) preserve the life or health of the child; or

(C) remove a dead fetus.

(2) "Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in this state.

(3) "Viable" means the stage of fetal development when, in the medical judgment of the attending physician based on the particular facts of the case, an unborn child possesses the capacity to live outside its mother's womb after its premature birth from any cause. The term does not include a fetus whose biparietal diameter is less than 60 millimeters.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 388, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1999. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, Sec. 10.001, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 170.002. PROHIBITED ACTS; EXEMPTION. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person may not intentionally or knowingly perform an abortion on a woman who is pregnant with a viable unborn child during the third trimester of the pregnancy.

(b) Subsection (a) does not prohibit a person from performing an abortion if at the time of the abortion the person is a physician and concludes in good faith according to the physician's best medical judgment that:

(1) the fetus is not a viable fetus and the pregnancy is not in the third trimester;

(2) the abortion is necessary to prevent the death or a substantial risk of serious impairment to the physical or mental health of the woman; or

(3) the fetus has a severe and irreversible abnormality, identified by reliable diagnostic procedures.

(c) A physician who performs an abortion that, according to the physician's best medical judgment at the time of the abortion, is to abort a viable unborn child during the third trimester of the pregnancy shall certify in writing to the department, on a form prescribed by the department, the medical indications supporting the physician's judgment that the abortion was authorized by Subsection (b)(2) or (3). The certification must be made not later than the 30th day after the date the abortion was performed.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 388, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.