

UCLA School of Law
**Center on Reproductive Health,
Law, and Policy**

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**UCLA Law's Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy (CRHLP) Releases New
Interactive Tool Tracks and Explains Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care
Shield Laws**

The new guide for practitioners and advocates will track and explain shield laws from dozens of U.S. jurisdictions

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, many states have implemented shield laws designed to protect patients, health care providers, and supporters from punitive actions in other states related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care. To support those navigating this complex legal landscape, the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy at UCLA Law today launched *Shield Laws for Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care: A State Law Guide*.

The comprehensive guide provides a detailed analysis of shield laws across the United States and offers clarity and insight into the various protections available for reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

Currently, through legislation or executive order, 23 states and Washington, D.C. have shield laws related to reproductive health care, while 17 states and Washington, D.C. have shield laws protecting gender-affirming health care. The extent and specifics of these protections differ from state to state, reflecting the diverse legal responses to ongoing curtailment of access to reproductive and gender-affirming care.

Key Features of the State Law Guide Include:

- **Interactive Maps:** Users can view a state-by-state breakdown of shield laws, easily identifying states that offer protections for reproductive and gender-affirming health care.
- **In-Depth Analysis:** For each state with a shield law, users can also view a detailed State Fact Sheet that analyzes the scope of the state's protections, legal nuances, and impact on patients, providers, and individuals providing care.
- **Up-to-Date Information:** The guide will be regularly updated to keep up with the changing legal landscape, ensuring users have the most current legal information available.

Amanda Barrow, Senior Staff Attorney at the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy at UCLA Law states, "In these challenging times, understanding the legal landscape surrounding reproductive and gender-affirming health care is crucial. Our new guide is designed to provide essential information and support for individuals and organizations working to ensure access to critical reproductive and gender-affirming health services. By offering a clear overview of shield laws, we hope to empower advocates, providers, and patients to navigate this evolving legal environment with confidence."

To access "Shield Laws for Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care: A State Law Guide," visit <https://bit.ly/CRHLPShieldLawGuide>

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The Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy at UCLA Law is a think tank and research center created to meet the current national crisis in access to abortion while working towards long-term solutions to advance reproductive justice.