

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 Updated Version of Shield Laws for Reproductive and
Gender-Affirming Health Care: A State Law Guide**

Today, the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy and the Williams Institute at UCLA Law released an updated version of Shield Laws for Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care: A State Law Guide, reflecting recent developments in several states.

The updated guide includes revised State Fact Sheets for 11 states that made substantive changes to their laws: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. Corresponding updates have also been made to the guide's interactive maps and comparative chart. Key changes to the laws include:

- Delaware's governor issued an executive order two days after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Skrmetti* to join 17 other states and Washington, D.C., in providing shield law protections related to gender-affirming health care. This leaves only four shield law states that provide protections for reproductive health care without explicit protections for gender-affirming health care.
- Colorado, Maine, New York, and Vermont enacted laws allowing the prescription labels for medication abortion to omit certain identifying information. These states join Washington, which enacted a similar law last year, reflecting a growing trend to increase privacy protections for people receiving, supporting, and providing reproductive and gender-affirming health care. Other states, including California and Massachusetts, are currently considering enacting similar laws in their ongoing legislative sessions.

- Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, and Washington added further protections against out-of-state investigations seeking to impose liability for reproductive and gender-affirming health care by strengthening their laws restricting subpoenas and other requests for information related to protected health care.

Tracking and analyzing these developments are part of the Center's and the Williams Institute's ongoing commitment to ensuring that patients, providers, and policymakers have access to clear, comprehensive, and up-to-date information on shield laws for reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

The guide will continue to be updated as other states complete their legislative sessions, new laws are enacted, and policies evolve across the country.

More About Shield Laws: In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022 and an increase in state bans on abortion and gender-affirming care, many states seeking to preserve or expand access to this health care have instituted 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. Shield laws have allowed tens of thousands of people to access care even when politicians in their states have banned it.

To explore the updated 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 an independently-funded think tank and research center developing long-term, lasting solutions that advance all aspects of reproductive justice and address the current national crisis of abortion access. We are lawyers, policy experts, scholars, and researchers who are working to increase access to abortion and contraception, end racial and economic disparities in maternal health outcomes, support people who decide to build families, and dismantle the gender bias that limits reproductive justice.