The Illinois Reproductive Health Act (RHA) was signed into law in 2019. The RHA establishes the fundamental right to make your own decisions about your reproductive health.

What does it mean to have a fundamental right under the RHA?
- The RHA guarantees that people have the right to make decisions about their own reproductive health and care.
- This right protects you if a State, County, and/or Local government official or employee tries to interfere with or limit your ability to make those decisions.

Can I be punished for decisions I make that may affect my pregnancy?
No. The RHA protects you from being punished by State, County, and Local Government agencies for decisions that you make that may affect your pregnancy. For example, you can’t be punished for:
- refusing medical treatment during pregnancy like medication or having a c-section
- experiencing a substance abuse disorder during pregnancy (for example, having a positive drug test during pregnancy)

What else is required by the RHA?
If your private insurance is an Illinois policy that covers pregnancy-related care, the RHA requires that the insurance policy must also cover abortion-related care.
- This only applies to insurance plans issued in Illinois, so some insurance policies like multi-state insurance plans (plans that provide coverage in more than one state) are not included. It also does not apply if you are covered under an employer’s “self-insured” or “self-funded” plan, which means your employer pays for insurance claims out of pocket as they occur instead of paying a regular fixed amount to insurance companies.

If you have further questions about how the RHA impacts your insurance coverage, contact the Illinois Department of Insurance:
- Insurance Information Desk Email: DOI.InfoDesk@illinois.gov
- Office of Consumer Health Insurance: (877) 527-9431 (Toll-Free)
- Consumer Assistance Hotline: (866) 445-5364 (Toll-Free)

If I’m incarcerated in jail or prison, are my rights under the RHA taken away?
No. Even if you are in State custody, control, or supervision, you still have the right to make your own decisions about your reproductive health and care.
- This includes people in jails and prisons, and other people in the custody, control, or supervision of the state including young people in the juvenile justice system.

If I’m in the child welfare system, (i.e. foster care), are my rights under the RHA taken away?
No. Even if you are in State custody, control, or supervision, you still have the right to make your own decisions about your reproductive health and care, but again, if you are under 18, some limitations may apply.*

Who does the RHA apply to?
The RHA protects the reproductive rights of ALL people regardless of age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, sexual behavior, class, immigration status, race, ethnicity, language ability, or disability status, though some restrictions apply for people under 18.*

*There are still some limitations on access to reproductive care for young people under 18 in Illinois:
If a young person under 18 is seeking an abortion then their parent, grandparent, step-parent they live with, or legal guardian must be notified.

Visit ilbypass.org for more information and assistance.
- If you need an abortion and cannot notify one of these family members, there are other options available, and they can apply even if you are in the child welfare system.
- Learn more about minors’ rights to confidential healthcare services