



Georgia Supreme Court Reinstates Restrictive Abortion Law

On Monday, October 7, 2024, the Georgia Supreme Court reinstated the state's abortion law (HB 481), which prohibits most abortions after the detection of fetal cardiac activity, typically around six weeks into pregnancy. This decision comes just days after Fulton County Judge Robert C. McBurney had declared the law unconstitutional. The ruling is now on hold as the legal process continues through appeals.

What does this mean for OB/GYNs and their patients in Georgia?

As of 5 p.m. on Monday, the six-week abortion ban is back in effect. Physicians must determine and inform their patients if fetal cardiac activity is present and follow the restrictions outlined in the law. Exceptions include cases of rape, incest (with a police report), life-threatening conditions for the mother, or severe fetal anomalies.

Next Steps:

This law is being appealed, and further developments are expected. Providers are encouraged to stay informed and work with their hospital systems to prepare for changes in the enforceability of the law.

The Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (GOGS) and Georgia Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG-GA) are committed to compassionate, evidence-based healthcare. We oppose legislation that undermines the patient-physician relationship and criminalizes medical care.

We will continue to provide updates on this rapidly evolving issue as they become available on the GOGS website at <https://gaobgyn.org/reproductive-health/>.

Thank you for your dedication to your profession and your patients