

**Medical Assistance\* in Pennsylvania pays for an abortion:**

- **If you are pregnant from rape or incest or,**
- **An abortion is necessary to save your life**

**You must also be currently enrolled in Medical Assistance and under 24 weeks pregnant.**

## **FAQ: ABORTION, RAPE, AND INCEST**

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### **What is rape?**

Rape is when someone has sex with you:

- By force (hitting, kicking, using a weapon)
- By threatening to hurt you
- When you are drugged or unconscious
- When you cannot consent due to mental illness or retardation
- If you are younger than 13
- If you are younger than 16 and the male is four or more years older

All of these situations are rape, even if you know the person or had sex with him before!

### **What is incest?**

Incest is sex with a parent, adoptive parent, child, grandparent, brother, half-brother, uncle, or nephew.

It does not matter how old the people involved are or whether force was used.

### **Do I have to report the rape to the police for Medical Assistance to pay for my abortion?**

No! If you were physically or psychologically unable to report the rape, your doctor can sign a form stating this. You will also have to sign a form.

### **What if I do not know when the rape happened, or the name of the rapist?**

You do not need to know, remember, or report the name of the rapist. You also do not need to know when it happened.

### **What if no one believes me?**

You have a right to be believed and treated with respect. If your doctor will not sign the forms you can file a complaint with your Medicaid HMO or ACCESS. You can also call the Women's Medical Fund or CHOICE for more help.

## **FAQ: ABORTION AND SERIOUS ILLNESS**

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### **How sick must I be for Medical Assistance to pay for my abortion?**

If continuing your pregnancy would endanger your life, Medical Assistance will pay for an abortion.

The life threat may be physical or mental, caused by the pregnancy or by some other underlying or separate condition.

### **Can you give any examples?**

Some examples of a life-threatening physical illness are cancer, AIDS, or high blood pressure. An example of life-threatening mental illness is wanting or trying to kill yourself.

### **How do I get Medical Assistance to pay for my abortion?**

You can make an appointment with a doctor who will fill out a form saying that you were raped or that the pregnancy is a threat to your life.

Start the process as soon as you are sure of your decision. The paperwork may take time, so do not delay. The procedure is safer the earlier it is done!

Each Medicaid HMO is different. Call your health insurance provider for information about this process.

### **How do I get the forms I need?**

If you were raped, you will need a *Physician Certification for an Abortion* form (MA-3), and a *Recipient Statement* form (MA-368).

If your life is at risk, you only need the *Physician Certification for an Abortion* form (MA-3).

The Women's Medical Fund will fax your doctor the forms if he or she does not have them.

### **What if my doctor will not sign the forms?**

If your doctor will not help you, call the Women's Medical Fund or CHOICE.

We can help you find another doctor or find alternate funding for your abortion.

### **What if I have travel expenses?**

Medical Assistance is required to pay for transportation expenses to any Medical Assistance covered medical service.

Call the Medical Assistance Service Line at 866-542-3015 for more information.

\*Medical Assistance is also called Medicaid or ACCESS.