

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

- **If a woman is pregnant from rape or incest or,**
- **An abortion is necessary to save the woman's life**

**She 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 defined as sexual intercourse:

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

*All of these situations are rape, even if she knows 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.

### **Does a woman need to file a police report for Medical Assistance to pay for her abortion?**

No! If both the woman and her physician sign the form stating that she is physically or psychologically unable to report the rape, she does not have to report the rape.

### **What if she wants to file a police report?**

The rape survivor does not have to know the rapist's name or the exact date of the assault for Medical Assistance coverage for her abortion. A report can be filed at any time.

### **What if a minor is raped?**

If she is under 18 and has been raped by a family member or caretaker, physicians and other health care providers are required to notify the appropriate child protective services on her behalf.

### **How can a physician be sure a woman is telling the truth?**

If the woman makes a false statement in signing the form, she can be prosecuted. However, a physician is not responsible for a patient's false statement.

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

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### **How sick must a woman be for Medical Assistance to pay for her abortion?**

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

The life threat may be due to a physical or mental illness. It may be caused by a pre-existing or a pregnancy-related condition.

Life threat refers to an increase in the relative risk of death. There need not be 100% certainty that continuing the pregnancy will result in the woman's death.

### **What are some examples?**

Some examples of a life-threatening physical illness are cancer, AIDS, or high blood pressure. An example of life-threatening mental illness is suicidal ideation.

### **What if the woman has travel expenses?**

Medical Assistance is required to pay a patient's transportation expenses to any Medical Assistance-covered medical service.

Call the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) for more information.

### **How do I arrange Medical Assistance payment for my patient?**

If the woman was raped:

- The woman completes a *Recipient Statement* form (MA-368).
- The physician completes a *Physician Certification for an Abortion* form (MA-3).

If the woman's life is at risk, only the *Physician Certification for an Abortion* form (MA-3) is needed.

Any physician who is providing her with medical treatment can sign the form, including her primary care physician and her abortion provider.

### **Where can I get these forms?**

For your convenience, the Women's Medical Fund or CHOICE will fax the forms upon request.

They are also available on the Department of Health website.