

North Carolina Shield Law Fact Sheet

FEBRUARY 2025

Through an executive order, North Carolina provides limited shield law protections, barring only state agency assistance and extradition of individuals related to out-of-state investigations and prosecutions involving reproductive health care lawful in North Carolina. Currently, North Carolina does not provide similar protections for gender-affirming care.

PROTECTION AGAINST OUT-OF-STATE INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

Protection Barring State Agency/Employee Assistance

Executive Orders issued in July 2022 and January 2025 provide that agencies part of the Governor's office and individuals acting on their behalf may not provide information—including patient medical records, patient-level data, and patient billing information—or use resources in furtherance of any investigation or proceeding that seeks to impose civil or criminal liability or professional sanction upon a person for providing, securing, receiving, inquiring about, or assisting in reproductive health services legal where the services are provided or sought, regardless of the residence of the person receiving the care.¹

Protection against Extradition and Arrests

The Executive Orders also provide that the Governor will decline requests for extradition and direct the state highway patrol, alcohol law enforcement, and police not to arrest a person when the charged criminal conduct involves inquiry into, provision of, assistance with, securing of, or receipt of reproductive health care services lawful in North Carolina, and the charged person was not physically present in the state requesting extradition at the time of the commission of the alleged offense.²

¹ N.C. Exec. Order No. 263 (July 6, 2022), available at: <https://governor.nc.gov/executive-order-no-263/open>; N.C. Exec. Order No. 8 (Jan. 16, 2025), available at: <https://governor.nc.gov/executive-order-no-8-reproductive-rights>.

² N.C. Exec. Order No. 263 (July 6, 2022), available at: <https://governor.nc.gov/executive-order-no-263/open>; N.C. Exec. Order No. 8

ABOUT THE CENTER ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, LAW, AND POLICY (CRHLP)

CRHLP is a nationwide think tank and research center created to meet the current national crisis in access to abortion while working towards long-term solutions to advance reproductive justice. CRHLP conducts analysis and research for legal, policy, and narrative change and serves as a trusted hub for convening and engaging academics, advocates, health care providers, policy makers, and community members to reimagine the landscape of reproductive health law and policy. CRHLP also trains the reproductive law and policy leaders of tomorrow. CRHLP is committed to the highest standards of independent inquiry, academic excellence, and rigor. Research findings and conclusions are never altered to accommodate other interests, including those of funders, other organizations, or government bodies and officials.

For more information

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To receive pro bono legal assistance on questions related to the shield laws or other reproductive rights or justice issues, email: larj@law.ucla.edu