

# Kansas

*Hodes et al. v. Kobach*, (Dist. Ct., Johnson County, Kansas, civil court dept.) (October 30, 2023) Jayaram, J., issued preliminary injunction prohibiting enforcement of state laws including; (1) mandating providers to inform patients multiple times that a medication abortion can be reversed, (2) mandating specific information be provided to patients before abortion; abortion poses risks of breast cancer and premature births in future pregnancies, (3) patients must wait 30 minutes after meeting with the abortion provider before receiving abortion care, and (4) mandated information be provided to patients in specific format at least 24 hours before an abortion.

The Kansas No State Constitutional Right to Abortion and Legislative Power to Regulate Abortion Amendment was on the [ballot](#) in [Kansas](#) as a [legislatively referred constitutional amendment](#) on [August 2, 2022](#). The ballot measure was defeated.

*Hodes & Nauser, MDS, P.A. v. Schmidt*, 440 P.3d 461, 466 (2019) held:

Section 1 of the Kansas Constitution Bill of Rights affords protection of the right of personal autonomy, which includes the ability to control one's own body, to assert bodily integrity, and to exercise self-determination. This right allows a woman to make her own decisions regarding her body, health, family formation, and family life—decisions that can include whether to continue a pregnancy. And The State may only infringe upon the right to decide whether to continue a pregnancy if the State has a compelling interest and has narrowly tailored its actions to that interest

## **KAN. STAT. § 65-6704. Abortion upon minor; required information and counseling.**

(a) Before the performance of an abortion upon a minor, a counselor shall provide pregnancy information and counseling in a manner that can be understood by the minor and allows opportunity for the minor's questions to be addressed. A parent or guardian, or a person 21 or more years of age who is not associated with the abortion provider and who has a personal interest in the minor's well-being, shall accompany the minor and be involved in the minor's decision-making process regarding whether to have an abortion. Such information and counseling shall include:

(1) The alternatives available to the minor, including abortion, adoption and other alternatives to abortion;

(2) an explanation that the minor may change a decision to have an abortion at any time before the abortion is performed or may decide to have an abortion at any time while an abortion may be legally performed;

(3) make available to the minor information on agencies available to assist the minor and agencies from which birth control information is available;

(4) discussion of the possibility of involving the minor's parent or parents, other adult family members or guardian in the minor's decision-making; and

(5) information regarding the provisions of K.S.A. [65-6705](#), and amendments thereto, and the minor's rights under such provisions.

(b) After the performance of an abortion on a minor, a counselor shall provide counseling to assist the minor in adjusting to any post-abortion problems that the minor may have.

(c) After the counselor provides information and counseling to a minor as required by this section, the counselor shall have the minor sign and date a statement setting forth the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) and declaring that the minor has received information and counseling in accordance with those requirements.

(d) The counselor shall also sign and date the statement and shall include the counselor's business address and business telephone number. The counselor shall keep a copy for the minor's medical record and shall give the form to the minor or, if the minor requests and if the counselor is not the attending

physician, transmit the statement to the minor's attending physician. Such medical record shall be maintained as otherwise provided by law.

(e) The provision by a counselor of written materials which contain information and counseling meeting the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) and which is signed by the minor shall be presumed to be evidence of compliance with the requirements of this section.

(f) The requirements of subsection (a) shall not apply when a medical emergency exists. A physician who does not comply with the requirements of this section by reason of this exception shall state in the medical record of the abortion the medical indications on which the physician's judgment was based.

**History:** L. 1992, ch. 183, § 4; L. 2014, ch. 87, § 4; April 24.

**KAN. STAT. § 65-6703. Abortion when unborn child viable; restrictions and prohibitions; civil damages and criminal penalties for violations.**

(a) No person shall perform or induce, or attempt to perform or induce an abortion when the unborn child is viable unless such person is a physician and has a documented referral from another physician not legally or financially affiliated with the physician performing or inducing, or attempting to perform or induce the abortion and both physicians provide a written determination, based upon a medical judgment arrived at using and exercising that degree of care, skill and proficiency commonly exercised by the ordinary skillful, careful and prudent physician in the same or similar circumstances and that would be made by a reasonably prudent physician, knowledgeable in the field, and knowledgeable about the case and the treatment possibilities with respect to the conditions involved, that: (1) The abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman; or (2) a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman. No condition shall be deemed to exist if it is based on a claim or diagnosis that the woman will engage in conduct that would result in her death or in substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.

(b) Except in the case of a medical emergency, a copy of the written documented referral and of the abortion-performing physician's written determination shall be provided to the pregnant woman no less than 30 minutes prior to the initiation of the abortion. The written determination shall be time-stamped at the time it is delivered to the pregnant woman. The medical basis for the determination shall also be reported by the physician as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto. Such determination shall specify:

(1) If the unborn child was determined to be nonviable and the medical basis of such determination;

(2) if the abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman and the medical basis of such determination, including the specific medical condition the physician believes would cause the death of the pregnant woman; or

(3) if a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman and the medical basis of such determination, including the specific medical condition the physician believes would constitute a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman.

(c)

(1) Except in the case of a medical emergency, prior to performing or inducing, or attempting to perform or induce an abortion upon a woman, the physician shall determine the gestational age of the unborn child according to accepted obstetrical and neonatal practice and standards applied by physicians in the same or similar circumstances. If the physician determines the gestational age is less than 22 weeks, the physician shall document as part of the medical records of the woman the basis for the determination. The medical basis for the determination of the gestational age of the unborn child shall also be reported by the physician as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto.

(2) If the physician determines the gestational age of the unborn child is 22 or more weeks, prior to performing or inducing, or attempting to perform or induce an abortion upon the woman the physician shall determine if the unborn child is viable by using and exercising that degree of care, skill and proficiency commonly exercised by the ordinary skillful, careful and prudent physician in the same or similar circumstances. In making this determination of viability, the physician shall perform or cause to be performed such medical examinations and tests as are necessary to make a finding of the gestational age of the unborn child and shall enter such findings and determinations of viability in the medical record of the woman.

(3) If the physician determines the gestational age of an unborn child is 22 or more weeks, and determines that the unborn child is not viable and performs an abortion on the woman, the physician shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons for such determinations in writing to the medical care facility in which the abortion is performed for inclusion in the report of the medical care facility to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto, or if the abortion is not performed in a medical care facility, the physician shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons for such determinations in writing to the secretary of health and environment as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto.

(4) If the physician who is to perform the abortion determines the gestational age of an unborn child is 22 or more weeks, and determines that the unborn child is viable, both physicians under subsection (a) determine in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) that an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman or that a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman and the physician performs an abortion on the woman, the physician who performs the abortion shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons for such determinations, including the specific medical diagnosis for the determination that an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman or that a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman and the name of the referring physician required by subsection (a) in writing to the medical care facility in which the abortion is performed for inclusion in the report of the medical care facility to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto, or if the abortion is not performed in a medical care facility, the physician who performs the abortion shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons

for such determinations, including the specific medical diagnosis for the determination that an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman or that a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman and the name of the referring physician required by subsection (a) in writing to the secretary of health and environment as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto.

**(5)** The physician shall retain the medical records required to be kept under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection (c) for not less than 10 years and shall retain a copy of the written reports required under paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection (c) for not less than 10 years.

**(d)** The secretary of health and environment shall adopt rules and regulations to administer this section. Such rules and regulations shall include:

**(1)** A detailed list of the information that must be kept by a physician under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

**(2)** the contents of the written reports required under paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c); and

**(3)** detailed specifications regarding information that must be provided by a physician in order to comply with the obligation to disclose the medical basis and specific medical diagnosis relied upon in determining that an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman or that a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman.

**(e)** A woman upon whom an abortion is performed shall not be prosecuted under this section for a conspiracy to violate this section pursuant to K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 21-5302, and amendments thereto.

**(f)** Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a right to an abortion. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a person shall not perform an abortion that is prohibited by law.

**(g)**

**(1)** A woman upon whom an abortion is performed in violation of this section, the father, if married to the woman at the time of the abortion, and the parents or custodial guardian of the woman, if the woman has not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the abortion, may in a civil action obtain appropriate relief, unless, in a case where the plaintiff is not the woman upon whom the abortion was performed, the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct.

**(2)** Such relief shall include:

**(A)** Money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the violation of this section;

**(B)** statutory damages equal to three times the cost of the abortion; and

**(C)** reasonable attorney fees.

**(h)** The prosecution of violations of this section may be brought by the attorney general or by the district attorney or county attorney for the county where any violation of this section is alleged to

have occurred.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the authority of the board of healing arts to engage in a disciplinary action.

(j) If any provision of this section is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, it shall be conclusively presumed that the legislature would have enacted the remainder of this section without such invalid or unconstitutional provision.

(k) Upon a first conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a class A nonperson misdemeanor. Upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a severity level 10, nonperson felony.

**KAN. STAT. § 65-6721. Partial birth abortion; restrictions and prohibitions; civil damages and criminal penalties for violations.**

(a) No person shall perform or induce a partial birth abortion on an unborn child unless such person is a physician and has a documented referral from another physician who is licensed to practice in this state, and who is not legally or financially affiliated with the physician performing or inducing the abortion and both physicians provide a written determination, based upon a medical judgment that would be made by a reasonably prudent physician, knowledgeable in the field and knowledgeable about the case and the treatment possibilities with respect to the conditions involved, that the partial birth abortion is necessary to save the life of a mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.

(b) As used in this section, “partial birth abortion” means an abortion procedure in which the person performing the abortion deliberately and intentionally vaginally delivers a living unborn child until, in the case of a head-first presentation, the entire head of the unborn child is outside the body of the mother, or, in the case of a breech presentation, any part of the trunk of the unborn child past the navel is outside the body of the mother, for the purpose of performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered living unborn child, and performs the overt act, other than completion of delivery, that kills the partially delivered living unborn child.

(c)

(1) If a physician determines in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) that a partial birth abortion is necessary and performs a partial birth abortion on the woman, the physician shall report such determination, the medical basis, including the specific medical diagnosis and the reasons for such determination in writing to the medical care facility in which the abortion is performed for inclusion in the report of the medical care facility to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto, or if the abortion is not performed in a medical care facility, the physician shall report such determination, the medical basis, including the specific medical diagnosis, and the reasons for such determination in writing to the secretary of health and environment as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under K.S.A. 65-445, and amendments thereto. The physician shall retain a copy of the written reports required under this subsection for not less than 10 years.

(2) The secretary of health and environment shall adopt rules and regulations to administer

this section. Such rules and regulations shall include:

(A) A detailed list of the contents of the written reports required under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(B) detailed information that must be provided by a physician to insure that the specific medical basis and clinical diagnosis regarding the woman is reported.

(d)

(1) The father, if married to the woman at the time of the abortion, and, if the woman has not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the abortion, the parents or custodial guardian of the woman, may in a civil action obtain appropriate relief, unless, in a case where the plaintiff is not the woman upon whom the abortion was performed, the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct or the plaintiff consented to the abortion.

(2) Such relief shall include:

(A) Money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the violation of this section;

(B) statutory damages equal to three times the cost of the abortion; and

(C) reasonable attorney fees.

(e) A woman upon whom an abortion is performed shall not be prosecuted under this section for a conspiracy to violate this section pursuant to K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 21-5302, and amendments thereto.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a right to an abortion. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a person shall not perform an abortion that is prohibited by law.

(g) Upon conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a severity level 8 person felony.

**KAN. STAT. § 65-6724. Same; certain abortions prohibited, exceptions; determination of gestational age; civil action; criminal penalties.**

(a) No person shall perform or induce, or attempt to perform or induce an abortion upon a pain-capable unborn child unless such person is a physician and has a documented referral from another physician not legally or financially affiliated with the physician performing or inducing, or attempting to perform or induce the abortion and both physicians provide a written determination, based upon a medical judgment arrived at using and exercising that degree of care, skill and proficiency commonly exercised by the ordinary skillful, careful and prudent physician in the same or similar circumstances and that would be made by a reasonably prudent physician, knowledgeable in the field, and knowledgeable about the case and the treatment possibilities with respect to the conditions involved, that: (1) The abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman; or (2) a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman. No such condition shall be deemed to exist if it is based on a claim or diagnosis that the woman will engage in conduct which would result in her death or in substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.

(b) Except in the case of a medical emergency, a copy of the written documented referral and of

the abortion-performing physician's written determination shall be provided to the pregnant woman no less than 30 minutes prior to the initiation of the abortion. The written determination shall be time-stamped at the time it is delivered to the pregnant woman. The medical basis for the determination shall also be reported by the physician as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under [K.S.A. 65-445](#), and amendments thereto. Such determination shall specify:

(1) If the abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman and the medical basis of such determination, including the specific medical condition the physician believes would cause the death of the pregnant woman; or

(2) if a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman and the medical basis of such determination, including the specific medical condition the physician believes would constitute a substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman.

(c)

(1) Except in the case of a medical emergency, prior to performing or inducing, or attempting to perform or induce an abortion upon a woman, the physician shall determine the gestational age of the unborn child according to accepted obstetrical and neonatal practice and standards applied by physicians in the same or similar circumstances. In making such a determination, the physician shall make such inquiries of the woman and perform or cause to be performed such medical examinations and tests as a reasonably prudent physician, knowledgeable about the case and medical conditions involved, would consider necessary to perform in making an accurate diagnosis with respect to gestational age. The physician shall document as part of the medical records of the woman the basis for the determination of gestational age. The physician shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons for such determinations in writing to the medical care facility in which the abortion is performed or induced for inclusion in the report of the medical care facility to the secretary of health and environment under [K.S.A. 65-445](#), and amendments thereto, or if the abortion is not performed or induced in a medical care facility, the physician who performs or induces the abortion shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons for such determinations in writing to the secretary of health and environment as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under [K.S.A. 65-445](#), and amendments thereto.

(2) If the physician determines the gestational age of the unborn child is 22 or more weeks, then no abortion of the pain-capable unborn child shall be performed or induced, or attempted to be performed or induced except as provided for in subsection (a). In such event, the physician who performs or induces the abortion shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons for such determinations, including the specific medical diagnosis for the determination that an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman or that a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman and the name of the referring physician required by subsection (a) in writing to the medical care facility in which the abortion is performed or induced for inclusion in the report of the medical care facility to the secretary of health and environment under [K.S.A. 65-445](#), and amendments thereto, or if the abortion is not performed or induced in a medical care

facility, the physician who performs or induces the abortion shall report such determinations, the medical basis and the reasons for such determinations, including the specific medical diagnosis for the determination that an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman or that a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman and the name of the referring physician required by subsection (a) in writing to the secretary of health and environment as part of the written report made by the physician to the secretary of health and environment under [K.S.A. 65-445](#), and amendments thereto.

**(3)** The physician shall retain the medical records required to be kept under this subsection for not less than 10 years.

**(d)** The secretary of health and environment shall adopt rules and regulations to administer this section. Such rules and regulations shall include:

**(1)** A detailed list of the information that must be kept by a physician under this section;

**(2)** the contents of the written reports required under this section; and

**(3)** detailed specifications regarding information that must be provided by a physician in order to comply with the obligation to disclose the medical basis and specific medical diagnosis relied upon in determining gestational age and in determining that an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman, or that a continuation of the pregnancy will cause a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman.

**(e)** A woman upon whom an abortion is performed or induced, or attempted to be performed or induced shall not be prosecuted under this section for a conspiracy to violate this section pursuant to [K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 21-5302](#), and amendments thereto.

**(f)** Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a right to an abortion. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a person shall not perform an abortion that is prohibited by law.

**(g)**

**(1)** A woman upon whom an abortion is performed or induced in violation of this section, the father, if married to the woman at the time of the abortion, and the parents or custodial guardian of the woman, if the woman has not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the abortion, may in a civil action obtain appropriate relief, unless, in a case where the plaintiff is not the woman upon whom the abortion was performed or induced, the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct.

**(2)** Such relief shall include:

**(A)** money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the violation of this section;

**(B)** statutory damages equal to three times the cost of the abortion; and

**(C)** reasonable attorney fees.

**(h)** The prosecution of violations of this section may be brought by the attorney general or by the



district attorney or county attorney for the county where any violation of this section is alleged to have occurred.

(i) If any provision of this section is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, it shall be conclusively presumed that the legislature would have enacted the remainder of this section without such invalid or unconstitutional provision.

(j) Upon a first conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a class A person misdemeanor. Upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a severity level 10, person felony.

**KAN. STAT. § 65–6746 Criminal liability.**

Upon a first conviction of a violation of section 3, and amendments thereto, a person shall be guilty of a class A person misdemeanor. Upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation of section 3, and amendments thereto, a person shall be guilty of a severity level 10, person felony.