

Your Rights In Pregnancy and Childbirth

- The Right to Access Health Care**
- The Right to Informed Consent**
- The Right To Respectful Maternity Care**
- The Right to High Standard and Quality Care**
- The Right to Pain Relief during Birth**
- The Right to Dignity and Privacy**
- The Right to decline any and all medical care during pregnancy and birth**
- The Right to choose where and how she births**
- The Right to a birth companion**

A woman does not lose her bodily autonomy in pregnancy and medical procedures cannot be forced legally on women even in an emergency while they are conscious. A woman can decline any medical care in pregnancy or childbirth even if that choice results in their death and/or the death of their fetus.



**Clip this Information Sheet to your Antenatal Care Chart
Add this sheet to your Birth Plan**

Health Care Rights:

Australian Charter on Health Care Rights

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers/australian-charter-healthcare-rights>

NSW Health Consent Manual

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/manuals/Pages/consent-manual.aspx>

Western Australian Health Consent Manual

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/-/media/Files/Corporate/Policy%20Frameworks/Clinical%20Governance%20Safety%20and%20Quality/Policy/WA%20Health%20Consent%20to%20Treatment%20Policy/Supporting/WA-Health-Consent-to-Treatment-Policy.pdf>

Queensland Health Declining Maternity Care Guidelines

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/clinician-resources/pwdmrc>

Case Law on Women's Bodily Autonomy

(UK Precedent Australia Follows)

<https://www.globalhealthrights.org/st-georges-healthcare-nhs-trust-vs-s#:~:text=The%20Court%20held%20that%20S,to%20autonomy%20and%20self%2Ddetermination>

Resources

Legal Help

<https://www.humanrightsinchildbirth.org>

Maternity Consumer Advocacy

(If you are experiencing or have experienced disrespectful maternity care)

<https://www.maternityconsumernetwork.org.au/>

<https://www.maternitychoices.org/>