



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

NOTIFICATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF THE
HEALTH (REGULATION OF TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY) ACT 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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1. Introduction

The Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 (“the Act of 2018”) was passed by the Houses of the Oireachtas on 13 December 2018 and signed into law by the President on 20 December 2018.

The main purpose of the Act of 2018 is to set out the law governing access to termination of pregnancy in Ireland. It permits termination to be carried out in cases where there is a risk to the life, or of serious harm to the health, of the pregnant woman, including in an emergency; where there is a condition present which is likely to lead to the death of the foetus either before or within 28 days of birth; and without restriction up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.

The expanded service for termination of pregnancy under the Act of 2018 was introduced on 1 January 2019.

2. Notification

Section 20 of the Act of 2018 provides for a notification system in relation to all terminations of pregnancy carried out under the legislation. Specifically, it requires that the Minister for Health be notified of each termination of pregnancy no later than 28 days after it has been carried out.

The notifications are recorded on the form entitled “Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 (Notifications) Regulations 2018” (Statutory Instrument No. 597 of 2018). The following information is included in the form:

- Medical Council registration number of the medical practitioner who carried out the termination of pregnancy;
- The section of the Act under which the termination was carried out, i.e., section 9, 10, 11 or 12;
- Medical Council registration number(s) of the medical practitioner(s) who made the certification concerned;
- The county of residence, or place of residence (where the woman resides outside of the State) of the woman concerned;
- The date on which the termination of pregnancy was carried out.

No identifying information on the pregnant woman is included on the notification form.

Section 20 also requires the Minister to prepare a report on the notifications received during the immediately preceding year not later than 30 June in each year and to lay it before the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Minister must publish a copy of the annual report as soon as practicable after it has been laid before the Houses. No information that could lead to the identification of either the women or medical practitioners involved may be included in the report.

3. Notifications of terminations of pregnancy carried out between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020

Table 1 below sets out information received by the Minister on the number of terminations carried out under each relevant section of the legislation in 2020:

Section of the Act	Number of terminations notified
9 – Risk to life or health	20
10 – Risk to life or health in an emergency	5
11 – Condition likely to lead to death of foetus	97
12 – Early pregnancy	6455
Total	6577

Table 1: Terminations of pregnancy by section of the Act

Table 2 below sets out the number of terminations of pregnancy notified to the Minister by month in which the termination of pregnancy was carried out:

Month	Number of terminations notified
January	709
February	552
March	654
April	639
May	520
June	510
July	605
August	516
September	541
October	490
November	456
December	327
No date received	58
Total	6577

Table 2: Terminations of pregnancy by month

Table 3 below sets out information on the number of terminations of pregnancy notified to the Minister by the woman's county of residence, or place of residence (where the woman resides outside of the State):

County of residence, or place of residence where woman resides outside the State	Number of terminations notified
Carlow	56
Cavan	107
Clare	83
Cork	645
Donegal	128
Dublin	2414
Galway	274
Kerry	110
Kildare	264
Kilkenny	83
Laois	60
Leitrim	28
Limerick	278
Longford	52
Louth	220
Mayo	105
Meath	240
Monaghan	54
Offaly	67
Roscommon	53
Sligo	60
Tipperary	161
Waterford	158
Westmeath	108
Wexford	159
Wicklow	141
Northern Ireland	36
Other	8
No county/place received	425
Total	6577

Table 3: Terminations of pregnancy by county/place of residence