



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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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 2021 and 31 December 2021

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 2021:

Section of the Act	Number of terminations notified
9 – Risk to life or health	9
10 – Risk to life or health in an emergency	2
11 – Condition likely to lead to death of foetus	53
12 – Early pregnancy	4,513
Total	4,577

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	628
February	493
March	405
April	289
May	100
June	103
July	157
August	142
September	488
October	521
November	630
December	559
No date received	62
Total	4,577

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	46
Cavan	70
Clare	82
Cork	408
Donegal	90
Dublin	1618
Galway	206
Kerry	103
Kildare	165
Kilkenny	64
Laois	46
Leitrim	22
Limerick	186
Longford	41
Louth	160
Mayo	83
Meath	169
Monaghan	46
Offaly	49
Roscommon	38
Sligo	54
Tipperary	128
Waterford	124
Westmeath	76
Wexford	147
Wicklow	145
Northern Ireland	5
Other	2
No county/place received	204
Total	4,577

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