An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

NOTIFICATIONS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF THE

HEALTH (REGULATION OF TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY) ACT 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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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 2023and 31 December 2023

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 2023:

Section of the Act	Number of terminations notified
9 – Risk to life or health	21
10 – Risk to life or health in an emergency	7
11 – Condition likely to lead to death of foetus	129
12 – Early pregnancy	9876
Total	**10033**

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	878
February	683
March	874
April	762
May	902
June	866
July	866
August	810
September	836
October	777
November	804
December	817
No date received	158
Total	**10033**

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	89
Cavan	123
Clare	177
Cork	873
Donegal	249
Dublin	3645
Galway	446
Kerry	254
Kildare	429
Kilkenny	134
Laois	129
Leitrim	47
Limerick	423
Longford	76
Louth	330
Mayo	179
Meath	317
Monaghan	74
Offaly	133
Roscommon	98
Sligo	104
Tipperary	240
Waterford	258
Westmeath	174
Wexford	236
Wicklow	245
Northern Ireland	9
Other	7
No county/place received	535
Total	**10033**

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