

If you are seeking an abortion and you are 20 weeks or more pregnant (by gestational age) –

Utah law requires that you get information about possible pain that the unborn child may feel during the procedure, unless this procedure has to be performed for emergency reasons.

Utah Law Requirements

Does an unborn child feel pain?

Although scientific studies are not clear when an unborn child's nervous system is developed enough to feel pain, there is some evidence that pain may be felt at or after 20 weeks of gestation. You have the option of requesting that medicine be given to lessen or take away pain in the unborn child that may result from the procedure.

How is the medicine given?

Medicine to lessen or take away pain can be given to the unborn child in a couple of ways. One is by injecting a pain medicine or an anesthesia medicine directly to the unborn child through a needle. The other is to give the medicine to you so it goes to the unborn child. If you choose to have your health care provider give medicine for possible fetal pain, your provider will give you more details on the ways that it can be given.

Is the medicine effective to control pain?

The medicines that would be used are effective to control or eliminate pain in children and adults. We do not know if the effect in an unborn child is the same.

What are the risks to me?

There are always risks when you take medicines, especially pain and anesthetic medicines. You should discuss these risks with your provider.

Your provider is not prohibited from informing you of his/her own opinion regarding the administration of medicine to lessen or take away fetal pain.