

Article 1M.

Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

§ 90-21.140. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Abortion. – As defined in G.S. 90-21.81.
- (2) Attempt to perform an abortion. – As defined in G.S. 90-21.81.
- (3) Born alive. – With respect to a member of the species *Homo sapiens*, this term means the complete expulsion or extraction from his or her mother of that member, at any stage of development, who after such expulsion or extraction breathes or has a beating heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut, and regardless of whether the expulsion or extraction occurs as a result of natural or induced labor, cesarean section, or induced abortion. (2023-14, s. 3(a).)

§ 90-21.141. Findings.

The General Assembly makes the following findings:

- (1) If an abortion results in the live birth of an infant, the infant is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of North Carolina and entitled to all the protections of such laws.
- (2) Any infant born alive after an abortion or within a hospital, clinic, or other facility has the same claim to the protection of the law that would arise for any newborn, or for any person who comes to a hospital, clinic, or other facility for screening and treatment or otherwise becomes a patient within its care. (2023-14, s. 3(a).)

§ 90-21.142. Requirements for health care practitioners.

In the case of an abortion or an attempt to perform an abortion that results in a child born alive, any health care practitioner present at the time the child is born alive shall do all of the following:

- (1) Exercise the same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care practitioner would render to any other child born alive at the same gestational age.
- (2) Following the exercise of skill, care, and diligence required under subdivision (1) of this section, ensure that the child born alive is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital. (2023-14, s. 3(a).)

§ 90-21.143. Mandatory reporting of noncompliance.

A health care practitioner or any employee of a hospital, a physician's office, or an abortion clinic who has knowledge of a failure to comply with the requirements of G.S. 90-21.142 shall immediately report the failure to comply to an appropriate State or federal law enforcement agency, or both. (2023-14, s. 3(a).)

§ 90-21.144. Bar to prosecution of mothers of infants born alive.

The mother of a child born alive may not be prosecuted for a violation of, or attempt to or conspiracy to commit a violation of, G.S. 90-21.142 or G.S. 90-21.143 involving the child who was born alive. (2023-14, s. 3(a).)

§ 90-21.145. Penalties.

(a) In General. – Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, a person who violates G.S. 90-21.142 or G.S. 90-21.143 is guilty of a Class D felony, which shall include a fine of not more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).

(b) Unlawful Killing of Child Born Alive. – Any person who intentionally performs or attempts to perform an overt act that kills a child born alive shall be punished as under G.S. 14-17(c) for murder. (2023-14, s. 3(a).)

§ 90-21.146. Civil remedies; attorneys' fees.

(a) Civil Remedies. – If a child is born alive and there is a violation of this Article, a claim for damages against any person who has violated a provision of this Article may be sought by the woman upon whom an abortion was performed or attempted in violation of this Article. A claim for damages may include any one or more of the following:

- (1) Objectively verifiable money damage for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the violation of this Article.
- (2) Statutory damages equal to three times the cost of the abortion or attempted abortion.
- (3) Punitive damages pursuant to Chapter 1D of the General Statutes.

(b) Attorneys' Fees. – If judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff in any action authorized under this section, the court shall also tax as part of the costs reasonable attorneys' fees in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant. If judgment is rendered in favor of the defendant and the court finds that the plaintiff's suit was frivolous or brought in bad faith, then the court shall tax as part of the costs reasonable attorneys' fees in favor of the defendant against the plaintiff. (2023-14, s. 3(a).)