

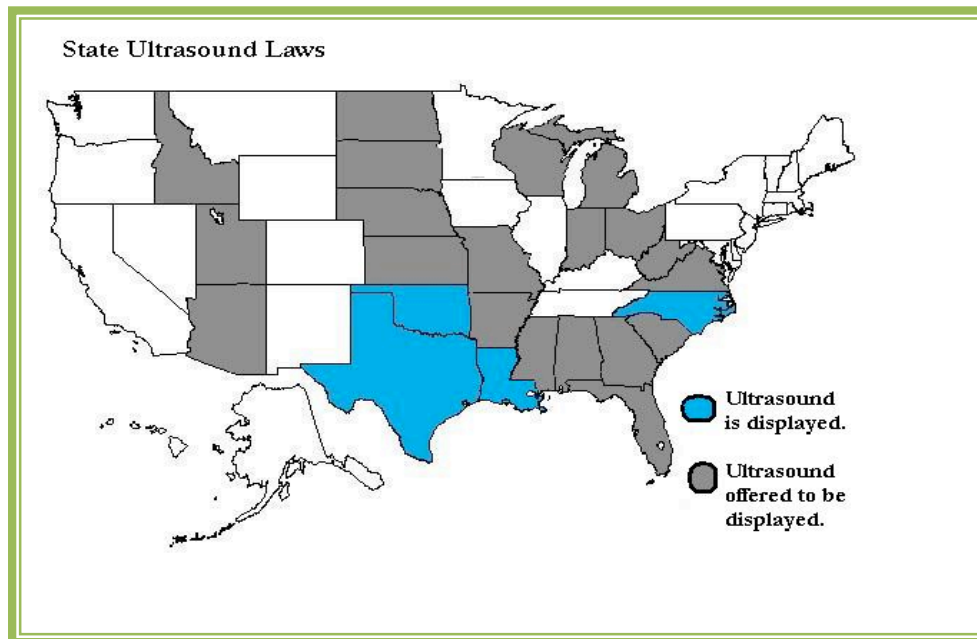
A Window to the Womb: A Guide to State Laws on Ultrasound

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Since 1992, states have increasingly passed protective laws called Informed Consent/Woman's Right to Know Laws. These laws are effective in lowering the abortion rate and protecting unborn children because pregnant mothers are able to receive factual scientific information on the development of unborn children as well as information on local resources that offer alternatives to abortion.

Another aspect of these laws that have recently gained national attention are the Ultrasound Right to View laws. These laws mainly require abortion facilities to offer a pregnant mother the opportunity to view an ultrasound of her unborn child before an abortion is performed. Four states now require that the ultrasound screen be displayed within her line of sight so she may view her ultrasound if she wants to look. This is different than the other state laws that require that the mother be offered a chance to see the ultrasound image. (In the states that offer the mother a chance to view, the offer to view is oftentimes contained in a stack of papers, in small-type print, that is given to the mother just prior to consenting to the abortion. The screen is usually positioned behind her.)

Laws on Ultrasound: 24 states



**North Carolina and Oklahoma currently in litigation.

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