

# Timeline of Abortion Legislation in the United States

New York State criminalizes abortion. Pre-quickening abortions were a misdemeanor, post-quickening abortions were a felony ("quickening" refers to the first time the woman can feel the fetus move, usually around 4 months)

New York passes a statute that said women who had abortions could serve between 3 months to a year in prison. Selling medication to induce abortions was also illegal. If a woman sought an abortion, she was fined up to \$1,000 (more than \$26,000 in 2020 after inflation). This law cites the story of Mary Rogers as one of its justifications.

New York State passes a law that says anyone who performs an abortion can serve 4-20 years in prison

New York State legalizes abortion up until the 24th week. The only requirement be that the procedure be performed by a licensed physician at an accredited hospital

Roe v Wade: a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction.

1829

c1836  
-1840

Madame Restell begins providing abortion services in New York

1845

1857

The American Medical Association begins a campaign to end abortion. This campaign targeted above all others Madame Restell in New York

1872

1873

Comstock Act passed in the United States. This prevented the distribution (through the US Postal Service) any information about abortion, contraceptives, and abortion medication

1970

1971

New York State repealed the statute that said inducing an abortion was a criminal offense

1973

2019

Reproductive Health Act passed in New York State: allows for abortions past the 24th week if the mother's health or life is in danger or the fetus isn't viable. It also allows for qualified health practitioners to perform abortions, not just licensed medical doctors