

Medical Termination of
Pregnancy Act, 1971 and Rules
thereunder 1975

MTP Act: Objectives

1. Aims to improve the maternal health scenario by preventing large number of unsafe abortions and consequent high incidence of maternal mortality & morbidity
2. Legalizes abortion services
3. Promotes access to safe abortion services to women
4. Offers protection to medical practitioners who otherwise would be penalized under the Indian Penal Code (sections 315-316)

Registered Medical Practitioner

A medical Practitioner who possesses any recognized medical qualifications as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, whose name has been entered in a state medical register and who has such experience or training in gynecology and obstetrics as may be prescribed by rules made under this act.

Place

It is a building tent, vehicle or vessel or part thereof used for the establishment or maintenance therein of hospital or clinic which is used or intended to be used for the termination of pregnancy.

Owner

In relation to place, means any person who is administrative head or otherwise responsible for the working or maintenance of such hospital or clinic.

Circumstances for termination of Pregnancy by RMP

1. Pregnancy is not more than 12 weeks old:

Conditions:

- a- Serious injury to physical or mental health of the woman and
- b- Child to be born would be seriously handicapped.

2. More than 12 weeks but less than 20 weeks:

If pregnancy caused because of rape or as a result of failure of any contraceptive device used by any married woman or her husband for the purpose of family planning, it may be presumed to constitute a grave injury to the mental health of pregnant woman

- **Woman with 18 years or more:** with her written consent
- **Woman with less than 18 years:** lunatic with written consent of her guardian

Experience or Training

This act prescribes the experience and training in gynecology and obstetrics for RMP who should have to terminate the pregnancy.

1. Before commencement of the act: Should have registration in state medical register and have more than 3 years of experience and practice in mentioned field.

2. After Commencement of the act:

- should have Completed 6 months of house surgency in gynecology and obstetrics
- More than 1-year experience in the practice of gynecology and obstetrics at any hospital.
- Assisted RMP in the performance of 25 cases of medical termination of pregnancy in a hospital established or maintained by govt. for this purpose

3. RMP who holds post-graduate degree or diploma in gynecology and obstetrics, the experience or training gained during the course of such degree or diploma.

Places for Pregnancy Termination

- Should have approval from government.
- Termination of pregnancies may be done under safe and hygienic conditions
- Facilities required: Operation table, instruments, anesthetics equipment, resuscitation equipment, sterilization equipment, Drugs and parenteral fluids for emergency use.

Offences and Penalties

Offences	Penalties
Termination of pregnancy by a person who is not RMP	Punishable under IPC
Any person who willfully contravenes or fails to comply with the requirements of any regulations made by state govt.	1000 rupees