

**146E.1 Definitions.**

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Abortion*” means the termination of a human pregnancy with the intent other than to produce a live birth or to remove a dead fetus.
  2. “*Fetal heartbeat*” means cardiac activity, the steady and repetitive rhythmic contraction of the fetal heart within the gestational sac.
  3. “*Fetal heartbeat exception*” means any of the following:
    - a. The pregnancy is the result of a rape which is reported within forty-five days of the incident to a law enforcement agency or to a public or private health agency which may include a family physician.
    - b. The pregnancy is the result of incest which is reported within one hundred forty days of the incident to a law enforcement agency or to a public or private health agency which may include a family physician.
    - c. Any spontaneous abortion, commonly known as a miscarriage, if not all of the products of conception are expelled.
    - d. The attending physician certifies that the fetus has a fetal abnormality that in the physician’s reasonable medical judgment is incompatible with life.
  4. “*Medical emergency*” means the same as defined in [section 146A.1](#).
  5. “*Physician*” means a person licensed under [chapter 148](#).
  6. “*Reasonable medical judgment*” means a medical judgment made by a reasonably prudent physician who is knowledgeable about the case and the treatment possibilities with respect to the medical conditions involved.
  7. “*Unborn child*” means the same as defined in [section 146A.1](#).
- [2023 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 1, §1, 3](#)