# Tennessee Governor Signs Laws Restricting Adult Assistance for Minors in Abortion and Gender-Affirming Care



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee has signed legislation prohibiting adults from assisting minors in obtaining abortions or receiving gender-affirming care without parental consent. The laws, set to take effect on July 1, 2024, mark significant restrictions on these services within the state.

The first law aims to prevent any adult from intentionally aiding a pregnant minor in securing an abortion without parental permission. This includes recruitment, harboring, or transportation of the minor. While emergency service personnel are exempt, violators face a Class A misdemeanor, which carries a sentence of nearly one year of imprisonment.

The second law mirrors this approach, targeting adults who assist minors in accessing gender-affirming care without parental approval. It includes aiding minors in finding information or traveling to other states for such services.

Both pieces of legislation are expected to encounter legal challenges. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has criticized the bills as unconstitutionally vague, particularly regarding free speech and expression. Planned Parenthood is also evaluating potential legal responses.

Tennessee's legislation follows a similar law in Idaho, which is currently blocked by a federal judge. These developments underscore ongoing national debates over reproductive and gender-affirming rights.