



ASSURING KENTUCKY WOMEN THE COMPREHENSIVE PERINATAL AND OBSTETRIC MEDICAL CARE THEY DESERVE

**House Committee Sub. for House Bill 414
Sponsored by Representative Nancy Tate**

- **Clarifying Medical Standards/Treatment**
- **Perinatal Palliative Care**



Prepared in conjunction with
Kentucky Right to Life & Kentucky ACOG

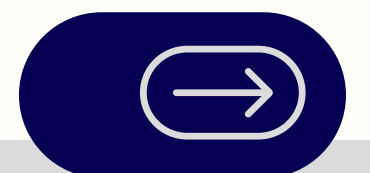
Misinformation Has Caused Concerns

- Dobbs Decision (June 24, 2022): Returned abortion regulation to the states.
- Kentucky's Trigger Law: Upheld by Kentucky Courts.



Why does this need to be addressed:

- Misinformation has caused fear among women and medical providers.
- Misinformation has led to hesitation in treating pregnancy complications.
- Misinformation has caused fear and led women to believe that they will be denied necessary medical treatment.
- Misinformation within the medical community has led to confusion about what medical procedures are legally allowed.





The Need for Clarity

Working with Members of the Kentucky House and Senate to provide Clarification...

Kentucky ACOG & Kentucky Right to Life agree and support the proposed language in the House Committee Substitute to House Bill 414.

- **The Committee Sub outlines the medical conditions and obstetrical complications that are NOT abortion under Kentucky Statutes.**
- **Distinguishes comprehensive and appropriate medical care from elective abortion.**

Current Kentucky Law does NOT restrict medical care for:

- **Miscarriage Management** – Medical procedures necessary to address spontaneous abortion (miscarriage), inevitable abortion, or incomplete abortion
- **Ectopic Pregnancy** – Life-threatening condition requiring urgent intervention
- **Molar Pregnancy** – Abnormal pregnancy requiring immediate medical treatment
- **Sepsis** – Life-threatening infection requiring emergency care
- **Hemorrhage** – Severe bleeding during pregnancy, labor, or postpartum

Many of these conditions require emergency interventions to prevent maternal death or permanent organ damage.





Currently, There Are NO Restrictions on Management of Fetal Demise, Stillbirth & Infant Loss

- > Consultation and medical intervention.**
- > Providing compassionate care for fetal demise, stillbirth, and infant loss.**
- > Removal of a deceased unborn child when no fetal cardiac activity is present.**
- > These treatments are essential components of comprehensive maternal care and are distinct from elective abortion.**

Clarified: Medical Conditions in the House Committee Sub. to HB 414



Explicitly Protected Medical Treatments



- Miscarriage Management
- Ectopic Pregnancy Treatment
- Molar Pregnancy Treatment
- Sepsis Treatment
- Hemorrhage Control
- Management of Fetal Demise & Stillbirth



Kentucky law ensures these conditions are treated without legal ambiguity.



Legislative Action to Strengthen Clarity

The Kentucky General Assembly is ensuring:

- Legal confidence for providers delivering maternal care.
- Clear distinctions between life-saving medical managements and an elective abortion.
- Public awareness efforts to combat disinformation about the maternal and obstetric healthcare in Kentucky.

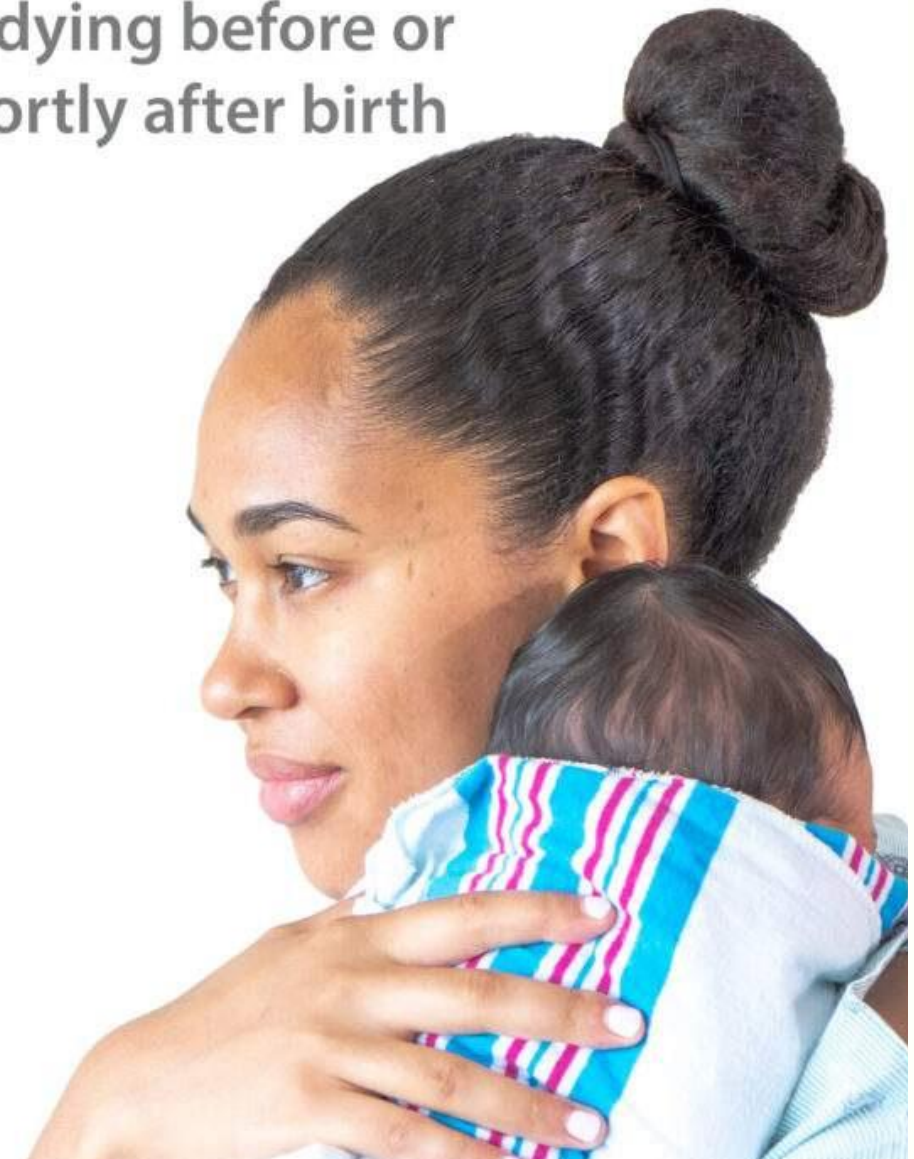


What Is Perinatal Palliative Care?

- Perinatal Palliative Care is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach that provides women and families facing pregnancy complications or difficult prenatal diagnoses with **INFORMED** emotional, medical, and compassionate support.

Perinatal Palliative Care

A guide to supporting families when a baby is at high risk of dying before or shortly after birth





The Need for Comprehensive Care:



- When pregnant women and families first hear terms like “medical complication” or “a condition that is not sustainable for life” for their child in utero, the first question they ask is “Why?”
- Perinatal palliative care provides answers, offering fetal testing and genetic counseling.
- A comprehensive, compassionate care model supports families throughout pregnancy, birth, and beyond, including emotional, pastoral, and spiritual guidance.

Current Perinatal Palliative Care Programs in Kentucky & Call to Action for Kentucky Women's Health



Existing Programs in Kentucky:

- **UK HealthCare** – Comprehensive perinatal palliative care services
- **Baptist Health Lexington** – Family Support Program
- **Norton Healthcare** – “Heart in Hands Neonates and The Unborn”
- **St. Elizabeth Healthcare (NKY)** – “Footprints Program”

Key Components Include:

- **Consultation:** Involves coordination among obstetricians, pediatricians, and palliative care specialists to ensure the mother and family understand the diagnosis, care options and possible outcomes.
- **Education and Counseling:** Supports the women and family in making informed decisions about their pregnancy, offering anticipatory guidance and emotional support before, during, and after delivery.
- **Memorializing and Creating Memories:** Helps the mother and families create memories of their baby through keepsakes, photographs, and moments of connection.
- **Spiritual and Pastoral Support:** Provides comfort for the mother and families during their grieving process, offering a caring, compassionate approach that honors their emotional and spiritual needs.
- **End-of-Life Care:** Ensures mothers and families are prepared and supported in the most difficult moments, offering comfort and care during the baby's brief life.

Commitment to Kentucky Women's Health



Kentucky remains committed to:

- Advancing maternal health initiatives.
- Supporting physicians in delivering comprehensive pregnancy care.
- Ensuring legal clarity so women receive the care they need.



Questions?

On behalf of Kentucky ACOG & Kentucky Right to Life

THANK YOU!

Representative Tate, Chairwoman Moser, and Committee Members for your Commitment to Kentucky's Maternal Health!

- **Your support for comprehensive care, clarity, and compassionate services will make a meaningful difference for Kentucky's pregnant women, children and families.**
- **Together, we can ensure that all Kentucky women and families facing difficult diagnoses receive the care, support, and dignity they deserve.**



Kentucky
ACOG

KENTUCKY
Right to Life
Changing Hearts | Saving Lives

 kyrighttolife.org