

Statement on Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals - May 2026

Reproductive Futures

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals granted Louisiana's request to reinstate a medically unnecessary, nationwide restriction on the use of telehealth for prescribing mifepristone, a safe and effective form of abortion medication. The Fifth Circuit's decision attempts to erode access to an essential, evidence-based method of care for thousands of patients. It is not grounded in science, law, or genuine concerns for patient safety. Instead, it is part of a broader effort to restrict access to telemedicine abortion nationwide and control women's reproductive freedom. We call on both federal and state governments to take urgent action to ensure nationwide access to essential care can continue.

— Julie F. Kay, JD, Founder and Executive Director, Reproductive Futures