

## 7. Maternity, childbirth, contraception

In Italy, it is forbidden to expel pregnant foreign women in irregular situations until 6 months after childbirth. The Police releases a residence permit for health reasons to pregnant women.

In Italy, pregnancy-related healthcare is free of charge for everyone (you don't have to pay the ticket). Foreign women without a regular residence permit are entitled to free healthcare too.

City Halls offer maternity grants to Non-EU citizens with a valid residence permit for work, EU long-term residents (former "Carta di Soggiorno"), refugee status or subsidiary protection.

Foreign citizens who haven't received the residence permit yet, can apply for maternity grants in the first 6 months after childbirth, attaching the residence permit application receipt.

Maternity grants are also available for non-EU citizens with a 5-year residence card for family members of EU citizens and for non-EU citizens with a permanent residence card for non-EU family members. "Family member" means your spouse, your and your spouse's direct descendants in your care or aged less than 21 years, your and your spouse's direct ascendants in your care.

According to Italian Law (Act 194), you can terminate a pregnancy up to 90 days from conception. After 90 days, termination of pregnancy is possible only if the mother is in a life-threatening situation (due to pregnancy) or if the baby has a severe malformation. For voluntary termination of pregnancy, please refer to your general practitioner or counselling centres.

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### The Counselling Centre

Counselling Services safeguard the health and life quality of women, children and families, and offer integrated healthcare programmes. Such free-access and free-of-charge programmes do not require medical prescriptions and concern the following topics:

- responsible procreation, including the access to free contraception;
- birth programme (preconceptional consultations, pregnancy, puerperium);
- sterility and procreation-related problems (1° level);
- Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy;
- cervical cancer;
- preventing sexually transmitted diseases;
- menopause programme;
- supporting biological, custodial and adoptive parents;
- complex family relationships, couple problems, emotional distress;
- family mediation activities in cases of separation and divorce;
- violence and abuse, activating networking programmes.

#### Staff

- Obstetrician
- Gynaecologist
- Psychologist
- Social Worker

Access modalities

- Go to counselling centres
- Phone/e-mail
- Schedule an appointment at CUP

In **Florence**, there are **Counselling Centres for Migrants** with linguistic and cultural mediators. They are specific centres for foreign women and children registered in the SSN or with STP/ENI cards. You can access Counselling Centres for Migrants even without a residence permit (with STP card).

Find out the addresses of Counselling Centres in Florence at the following link:

<https://www.uslcentro.toscana.it/index.php/diagnosi-e-cura/619-consultorio/10418-consultori>

Click on “Zona Firenze”.

**Documents required to access counselling centres:**

Neonatal and pregnancy-related healthcare is free for both Italian and foreign women, whether they have a residence permit or not.

Foreign women with a residence permit are entitled to National Healthcare Service registration.

Non-EU women without a residence permit are exempt from paying the ticket for pregnancy and childbirth related exams and consultations.

It is compulsory to apply for STP Card (“Straniero Temporaneamente Presente”)

For further information on Counselling Centres <https://icare.sanita.toscana.it/it/>