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## Order allows abortions to resume on case-by-case basis during COVID-19 outbreak



Updated: 6:30 PM CDT Apr 1, 2020

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — A Johnson County judge ordered Wednesday that some abortions can continue during the COVID-19 outbreak after Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered the procedures to stop.

A lawsuit against Reynolds was filed by the ACLU after the governor [included abortions as elective and non-emergency procedure](#), requiring them to be halted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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According to a combined statement from Planned Parenthood North Central States, ACLU of Iowa and the Emma Goldman Clinic, a judge ordered an agreement between the parties that allows physicians to make case-by-case decisions on whether patients will receive abortions.

The statement said Planned Parenthood will resume seeing patients for in-clinic procedures.

“We are all hoping for the quick end to this pandemic crisis and, in the meantime, we want to reassure patients that if they need to seek abortion or other reproductive health care services, they should contact Planned Parenthood to consult with a health care provider,” the statement said. “We, like all health care providers, must be focused on our patients right now and today’s agreement allows us to do so.”

Reynolds originally said the halt on abortions was intended to [conserve medical equipment](#), which is in short supply due to COVID-19.

The Office of the Governor said in a statement, "Governor Reynolds is pleased that her proclamation remains in full effect and that surgical abortions will not be exempted from this suspension of nonessential and elective surgeries."

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## Boy with autism gets surprise parade after birthday party canceled due to coronavirus outbreak

Matthew Brace's mother had to cancel his birthday party because of COVID-19



Updated: 12:48 AM CDT Apr 2, 2020

**David Kaplan**

Reporter

**BETHEL PARK, Pa.** — Matthew Brace knows struggle.

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He turned 17 on Wednesday.

He lives with autism, has heart and lung issues and is as happy as any 17-year-old could be.

Matthew Brace also knows triumph.

His original birthday party was supposed to be at a Chuck E. Cheese on Wednesday. His mother, Pamela, knew that couldn't happen.

"Unfortunately, we had to cancel it," Pamela Brace said.

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"I just thought of it yesterday. I was sitting. I was working from home and he likes police cars and fire trucks, and I just figured I'd reach out to them and see if they'd do it," Pamela said.

Bethel Park police Det. Sean Gorman took that call Tuesday and immediately started making more calls.

"Everybody was totally on board," Gorman said.

Police, fire and EMS from neighboring municipalities formed a parade, roughly 30 vehicles long, to pass Matthew for his birthday.

During the parade, Matthew, who was dressed in an Easter bunny costume, waved as the cars drove by.

"Especially in these times, it was amazing. I can't thank them enough from the bottom of my heart. I'm so grateful," Pamela Brace said.

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