

Big Tech remains silent on questions about data privacy in a post-Roe world | MIT Technology Review

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Google says in its terms of service that the company reserves the right to remove any content that violates the law or could harm other users, third parties, or Google itself. Those terms of service cover a wide range of products, including email, stored media, travel itineraries on Google Maps, and Google documents.

This policy has major privacy and safety implications for those educating others online about abortion, advocating for abortion access, or seeking an abortion in states that have made the procedure illegal. It also has consequences for activists and organizers working on reproductive rights: Google Docs is a popular tool for quick, collaborative organizing around major social issues.

Google-owned YouTube could also limit content about abortion. While YouTube's rules on violent content do have an exception for educational videos, it's not clear whether the platform's policy against promoting "violent acts" could become a tool for anti-abortion activists under state laws that now criminalize the procedure. For instance, they could simply identify content across Google's platforms that advocates for abortion access or provides resources for those seeking an abortion, and start reporting it to Google's moderators.

[...]

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