

How I Legally Opted Out of Mandatory Vaccines in Italy

And what happened after.

This is not legal advice. This is my story: what I said, what I did, what happened, and how it ended. You can do with it what you want.

It was 2018. The Lorenzin law had just made ten vaccines mandatory for school enrollment in Italy. Every parent I knew was either complying or panicking. I did neither.

The Law

Decreto Legge 73/2017, known as the Lorenzin decree, came into force in 2017 and made vaccination compulsory for children up to age 16 as a condition of enrolling in state schools. Ten vaccines were on the list.

The penalties for non-compliance were administrative, not criminal. Fines, and potential loss of school enrollment for the youngest children. Not prison. The law created pressure and confusion in equal measure. Most parents did not know where the actual boundary was between obligation and enforcement.

That gap is where I operated.

It is also worth knowing that as of 2024, there are active political efforts in Italy to soften or repeal the Lorenzin law entirely. The landscape has shifted since 2018. The pressure has eased in many regions. This does not mean the law no longer exists, but it means you are not navigating the same peak-pressure moment I was.

On Sovereignty

Most people walk into the USL already defeated. Not because the law is against them, but because they assume it is. They have been taught to see the system as something that happens to them, not something they are participating in.

The system only works if you cooperate with its framing.

Your body is yours. Your child's body is yours to protect until they are old enough to protect it themselves. That is not a political position. It is a baseline. A government decree does not change that baseline. It just tests whether you know it.

What I did at the USL was not radical. I did not shout, I did not refuse, I did not make a scene. I asked questions. Specific, calm, reasonable questions that any informed parent has every right to ask. The power was there the whole time. I just stopped pretending it wasn't.

The Legal Basis You Are Standing On

Article 32 of the Italian Constitution protects health as a fundamental right of the individual. It also establishes that no one can be compelled to undergo medical treatment except where the law specifically requires it, and even then, that treatment must respect the dignity of the person.

Informed consent is not a formality. It is a legal requirement before any medical intervention. The Constitutional Court has confirmed that the informed consent form is not a waiver of your right to compensation if something goes wrong. It is a guarantee of your right to self-determination. You cannot meaningfully consent to something whose full composition you do not know.

Consent without full information is not consent. That is the legal ground you stand on.

This is not a loophole. It is the law working as intended, for you.

What I Did

I showed up to the scheduled vaccination appointment at the USL without my son. Just me. With one very simple request.

"I am sorry, I cannot sign the consent form if I do not have the full list of vaccine ingredients."

That was it. That was the whole move.

I also handed them a piece of paper I had written myself, stating that by administering the vaccine, the person doing so would take on personal legal responsibility for any adverse effects. I asked them to sign it.

They could not provide the full ingredient list. They would not sign the responsibility paper. So they sent me home.

They scheduled a second appointment. Different approach, same result: they wanted to persuade me, I wanted the paperwork. Nobody moved.

The Responsibility Paper

I did not download a template. I did not hire a lawyer. I wrote it myself, by hand, on a plain piece of paper. Nothing fancy.

The principle is simple: you are making explicit what is already legally true. If a medical professional administers a treatment that causes harm, they carry responsibility. By writing it down and asking them to sign, you are making that implicit fact visible. Most will not sign it. That refusal is informative in itself.

Here is the kind of language that works. Write it in your own words, keep it simple:

"I, [name and role], declare that I assume full personal legal responsibility for any adverse effects, injuries, or damage resulting from the administration of the vaccines listed below to the minor [child's name], including but not limited to neurological, immunological, and physical harm. I confirm that I have provided the parent with the complete list of ingredients for each vaccine administered."

Sign and date it yourself. Leave a space for their signature. Then wait.

What Happened Next

My pediatrician reported me to the police.

I went to the station voluntarily. I brought a folder of documentation on vaccine-related injuries: fourteen points, sourced research, in English. I walked in calm, I handed it over, they filed it.

I went home. Nobody ever called. Nobody ever followed up. That was the end of it.

I want to be clear about why I think it ended that way. I was not lucky. I was prepared. I had documentation. I showed up without drama. The system expects panic or aggression. It does not have a good script for calm, informed, cooperative non-compliance.

What They Can and Cannot Do To You

This is what parents most need to know, and most are not told.

They can fine you.

Administrative fines under the Lorenzin law apply to parents who do not comply. These are not criminal penalties.

They can exclude very young children from nursery and infant school.

For children under 6, non-vaccination can result in exclusion from asilo nido and scuola dell'infanzia. For primary school and above, exclusion is not automatic.

They cannot arrest you.

Non-vaccination is not a criminal offence. The police cannot arrest you for it.

They cannot vaccinate your child without your consent.

No medical intervention can be performed on a minor without parental consent, period.

They can refer your case to the Tribunale dei Minorenni.

This is real, not theoretical. However, looking at the cases that actually reached a tribunal, two patterns emerge consistently. Almost all involved separated parents in conflict with each other, where one parent reported the other. And the cases involving older children, including two siblings aged 13 and 16 who were ordered to vaccinate, were specifically about the Covid vaccine during 2021 and 2022, a completely different legal and political context from the standard childhood schedule. A single parent, calmly and independently navigating the standard Lorenzin vaccines, is a very different situation from anything that has actually ended up in court.

If It Escalates

If you are contacted by the police or asked to attend a meeting with authorities, go. Voluntarily. Calmly. With documentation.

Bring whatever you have gathered on vaccine ingredients, adverse effect reporting, and your legal basis under Article 32. You do not need it all to be in Italian. Showing up prepared changes the dynamic.

Write down the name of every person you speak to, the date, and what was said. This is not paranoia. It is how you protect yourself if the conversation needs to

continue.

If you want legal support, search for Italian associations that work on health freedom and informed consent. Organisations such as Avvocati Liberi have worked on vaccine-related cases and were involved in the 2024 referendum initiative to repeal the Lorenzin law.

What To Do, Step by Step

1. Show up without your child.

There is nothing they can do in that moment if your child is not there. It also signals that you are prepared, not reactive.

2. Ask for the full ingredient list.

Not a summary. The full list for each vaccine on the schedule. Ask politely. Write down who you spoke to and when. If they cannot provide it, note that too.

3. Present your responsibility paper.

Write it yourself. Hand it over calmly and ask them to sign. Their response, whatever it is, is useful information.

4. Say the sentence.

"I am sorry, I cannot sign the consent form if I do not have the full list of vaccine ingredients." That is all you need to say. Do not argue. Do not explain further. Wait.

5. Stay calm.

The pressure they apply depends on your emotional reaction. Remove that reaction and the pressure has nowhere to go.

6. Document everything.

Dates, names, what was said, what was not provided. Every appointment, every phone call.

7. If it escalates, go voluntarily.

Bring your documentation. Be cooperative and prepared in equal measure. The goal is not confrontation. It is clarity.

My son is now twelve. He has never been seriously ill. Even a cold is unusual in our household.

Draw your own conclusions. I drew mine in 2018 and I am still standing by them. You have more power than you think. Most people never find out because they never try.

Questions? I am happy to hear from you directly. hello@giuliapacciotti.com | giuliapacciotti.com

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This guide is personal testimony, not legal advice. Laws change. Circumstances vary. Do your own research and make your own decisions.