

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Arkansas Department of Health, Section of Health Facility Services will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Freeway Medical Tower, Suite 801, 5800 West Tenth Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72204 to allow interested persons to comment on proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations for Abortion Facilities in Arkansas promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §20-9-301 et seq. The proposed revisions will: incorporate provisions from the following Acts of 2015 regular session: 139; 535; 577; 887; 934; and 1086; and the surviving provisions of Act 301 of 2013. More specifically, the proposal adds and updates definitions from the 2015 Acts; specifies written and other requirements for informed consent and certification requirements for medical emergency exceptions to informed consent; specifies written notarized requirements for consent for minors and women under guardianship; adds policies and procedures requirements for proper storage and disposition of human and fetal tissue, patient follow-up appointments, and patient receipt of USFDA drug labels for abortion-inducing drugs; adds abdominal ultrasound and heartbeat disclosure requirements; adds reporting requirements for child maltreatment/abuse; specifies abortion-reporting requirements; adds adverse event reporting for certain abortion-inducing drugs; adds 48 hour pre-procedure counselling and information requirement; adds requirement that administration of abortion-inducing drugs occurs in same room and physical presence of prescribing physician and requires determination of gestational age and intrauterine location of pregnancy; and introduces signage posting requirements. In addition, the proposal adds comprehensive measures for infection prevention and control, and includes forms for informed consent; fetal pain; and unemancipated minors and women under legal guardianship or custodianship for incompetency.

Copies of the proposed revisions are available for public inspection and copying at the Arkansas Department of Health, Health Facilities Services, Freeway Medical Tower, Suite 400, 5800 West Tenth Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204. The proposed revisions are also available for inspection online through the Arkansas Department of Health website: www.healthy.arkansas.gov proposed rules link.

The public may submit written comments regarding the proposed amendments to: Becky Bennett, Section Chief, Health Facilities Services, Arkansas Department of Health, Health Facility Services, 5800 W. 10th Street, Suite 400, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204, or in person to the Freeway Medical Tower, Suite 400, 5800 West Tenth Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204 no later than 12:00 noon on July 26, 2016.