

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Arkansas Department of Health, Section of Health Facility Services will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Freeway Medical Tower, Suite 801, 5800 West Tenth Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, 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 171 of 2013. More specifically, the proposal adds and updates definitions from the 2015 Acts; specifies written and other requirements for informed consent; specifies written 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 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 contract requirement with OB/GYN surgeon to handle emergencies and notice of same to patient with name of hospital for emergency care; adds requirement that administration of abortion-inducing drugs occurs in same room and physical presence of prescribing physician; requires determination of gestational age and intrauterine location of pregnancy; and introduces signage posting requirements. In addition, the proposed changes contain comprehensive measures for infection prevention and control.

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. 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: Connie Melton, 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 3:00 p.m. on November 23, 2015.