



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

KIRK COLE
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
1-888-963-7111
TTY: 1-800-735-2989
www.dshs.state.tx.us

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Dear Abortion Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the passage of House Bill (HB) 416 during the 84th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. HB 416 relates to requiring personnel of abortion and certain other facilities performing abortions, to complete a training program to identify and assist victims of human trafficking. This new law became effective on September 1, 2015.

Abortion facilities and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) that perform more than 50 abortions in any 12-month period shall ensure their employees, volunteers and contractors who have direct contact with patients seeking an abortion, to complete the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force training curriculum located on the DSHS website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/facilities/abortion/laws-rules.aspx>.

The timeframe for facility personnel, volunteers and contractors to complete the training on human trafficking is as follows:

- Persons hired or who began volunteering or providing services under contract at the facility before September 1, 2015, are not required to complete the training on human trafficking until September 1, 2016.
- Persons hired or who began volunteering or providing services under contract at the facility after September 1, 2015, but before January 1, 2016, shall complete the training on human trafficking by January 1, 2016.
- Persons hired or who begin volunteering or providing services under contract at the facility after January 1, 2016, shall complete the training on human trafficking during new employee orientation.

DSHS will begin enforcement of this new law effective January 1, 2016. Failure to comply with this law will result in a deficiency citation and possible adverse disciplinary action.

If you have additional questions regarding HB 416, please contact Allison Hughes, R.N., at (512) 834-6700, extension 6775.

Sincerely

Renee Clack, L.N.F.A.
Director, Health Care Quality Section
Division for Regulatory Services