

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Mississippi State Department of Health Title X Family Planning Staff**

**SUBJECT: Program Requirements for Title X Funded Family Planning Projects  
Section 8.1: Voluntary Participation**

This memorandum is to act as notice that as an employee of the Mississippi State Department of Health Title X Family Planning you may be subject to prosecution under Federal law if you coerce or endeavor to coerce any person to undergo an abortion or sterilization procedure.

Family planning services are to be provided solely on a voluntary basis (Sections 1001 and 1007, PHS Act; 42 CFR 59.5 (a)(2)). Clients cannot be coerced to accept services or to use or not use any particular method of family planning. Acceptance of family planning services or to use or not use any particular method of family planning. Acceptance of family planning services must not be a prerequisite to eligibility for, or receipt of, any other service or assistance from or participation in any other programs of the applicant (42 CFR 59.5 (a)(2)).

Personnel working within the family planning project must be informed that they may be subject to prosecution under Federal law if they coerce or endeavor to coerce any person to undergo an abortion or sterilization procedure (Section 205, Public Law 94-63, as set out in 42 CFR 59.5 (a) (2) footnote 1).

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Title X Voluntary Participation Guidelines that I may be subject to prosecution under Federal law if I coerce or endeavor to coerce any patient or client to undergo an abortion or sterilization procedure.

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Employee Signature

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Date

Cc: Copy must be maintained in employee file