



Newport Hospital and Health Services

714 W. Pine Street, Newport, WA 99156 • (509) 447-2441

www.NewportHospitalAndHealth.org

TITLE: Reproductive Health	POLICY #
	OWNER (Title): Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT: Patient Care	
SECTION :	CREATION DATE: 1/17/2022
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: Policy/Procedure	PAGE 1 OF 1

Purpose and/or Policy Statement:

The Reproductive Privacy Act declares that it is the public policy of the state of Washington that:

- (1) Every individual has a fundamental right to choose or refuse birth control;
- (2) Every pregnant individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion, except as specifically limited by RCW 9.02.100 through 9.02.170 and 9.02.900 through 9.02.902;
- (3) Except as specifically permitted by RCW 9.02.100 through 9.02.170 and 9.02.900 through 9.02.902, the state shall not deny or interfere with a pregnant individual's fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion; and
- (4) The state shall not discriminate against the exercise of these rights in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, and information.

The legal obligations of public hospital districts in WA State, with respect to the provision of abortion, family planning and reproductive health services are as follows:

If a public hospital district provides, directly or by contract, maternity care benefits, services, or information to individuals, the public hospital district is required by state law to also provide the individual with substantially equivalent benefits, services, or information to permit them to voluntarily terminate their pregnancies.

Procedure:

Public hospital districts cannot perform abortions without the assistance of their medical staff and employees. The Act prohibits a Public Hospital District from requiring its medical staff or employees to participate in the performance of abortions (RCW - 9.02.150). Physicians who refuse to perform abortions cannot be denied privileges nor can their medical staff privileges be adversely affected.

NHHS provides maternity services and makes its facilities available to privileged/credentialed physicians who are willing to perform abortions. Public hospital district medical staff and employees may refuse to assist with the abortion procedure.

In addition, Newport Hospital provides referral information for maternity services, and shall provide similar referral information for abortions.

Definitions:

State - The term "state" is defined in the Act to include municipal corporations such as Public Hospital Districts. RCW 9.02.170 - [RCW 9.02.170: Definitions. \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.02.170)

References:

Washington State Legislature. (1991). *Chapter 9.02 RCW Abortion*. Retrieved from <http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.02>

RCW 9.02.100 - [RCW 9.02.100: Reproductive privacy—Public policy. \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.02.100)

RCW 9.02.110 - [RCW 9.02.110: Right to have and provide. \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.02.110)

RCW 9.02.130 - [RCW 9.02.130: Defenses to prosecution. \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.02.130)

RCW 9.02.160 - [RCW 9.02.160: State-provided benefits. \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.02.160)

RCW 9.02.150 - [RCW 9.02.150: Refusing to perform. \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9.02.150)

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