



Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

Policy & Procedure Title:		Guidelines for Pregnancy Termination	
Category:	300-399 Operation Policy	Policy No.:	333
Originally Issued:	5/1/1998	Update (U)/Revised (R):	12/16/2015 (R)
DHS Division/Unit of Origin:	Women's Health Programs and Innovation		
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Distribution: DHS-wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If not DHS-wide, other distribution:		

PURPOSE:

To define the Department of Health Services' policy relating to pregnancy terminations

POLICY:

Pregnancy termination shall be allowed upon the request of a competent patient, or the patient's legal surrogate, in those circumstances where in the good faith medical judgment of the responsible provider performing the procedure, consistent with the California Law, has determined either of the following:

1. The fetus is nonviable or previsible; OR
2. The procedure is necessary to preserve the life and/or health of the mother at any gestational age.

Prior to any pregnancy termination procedure, an informed consent shall be obtained. The consent shall discuss the options relating to specific procedures proposed. The consent shall discuss the possibility of a live birth when there is this possibility based on the procedure performed.

The rights to medical treatment of an infant prematurely born alive in the course of a pregnancy termination shall be the same as the rights of an infant of similar medical status prematurely born spontaneously. Please refer to DHS Policy 311.002, Threshold of Viability.

Women requesting pregnancy termination will be offered counseling services by Clinical Social Work, Spiritual Care Services, or the Department of Psychiatry, if requested, prior to initiating the procedure.

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is to ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

Revision/Review Dates:
 Department Head/Designee Approval:

Each department and discipline at facilities providing these services shall staff appropriately to care for women who undergo pregnancy termination. All applicable provision of law and regulation concerning conscientious objection of members of the staff will be followed.