



KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Policies And Procedures

TITLE: Abortion			Article: 1611
APPROVED: William Dickinson, Chief Probation Officer			
EFFECTIVE: October 2016	REVIEWED: August 2018	REVISED: September 2024	UPDATED: October 2016

POLICY

Abortion is a highly controversial issue which the department takes a neutral stance. Consequently, all staff, whether in the institutions or field services, shall not attempt to influence a pregnant female's decision about whether to have or not to have an abortion. This prohibition also applies to members of any organization who receive authorization to make presentations in probation institutions. For additional information see the James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall Abortion Policy/Procedures, which contains a detailed history and explanation of the current policy/procedure. Further information is outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 220 and Minimum Standards for Local Juvenile Facilities, Title 15, Section 1416.

I. PROCEDURE

In-custody ward abortion

- A. The Deputy Probation Officer will notify his/her Probation Supervisor of the request of the Ward for an abortion. In all cases when a Ward requests an abortion, notification shall be made up the chain of command to the Chief Probation Officer.
- B. The Deputy Probation Officer will notify the Assistant Division Director and/or Probation Division Director of the following information:
 1. Ward's name;
 2. Ward's age/date of birth;
 3. Medical staff's confirmation of the pregnancy;
 4. Confirmation of a referral to Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services (JPPS);
 5. Names of officers assigned to transport the Ward to the clinic.
- C. Prior to proceeding with the abortion, the Deputy Probation Officer will confirm and communicate to the Assistant Division Director and/or Probation Division Director:

1. The Ward has requested an abortion;
2. The Ward has met with a member of JPPS;
3. Whether the parents' have knowledge of the procedure (it is not necessary to obtain parental consent);
4. Confirmation the Ward has discussed with the Family Planning Associates Medical Group the procedure and potential complications of the procedure (this may occur the day of the procedure);
5. Date of procedure.
6. After completion of the procedure, all medical documents and treatment orders will be given to the institution nurse.
7. The transportation officer will notify the Probation Supervisor of any problems which occurred at the clinic or during the procedure. All information will be reported to the appropriate Assistant Division Director and/or Probation Division Director.
8. All other Department procedures regarding the transportation of subjects will be followed with the exception of the use of restraints.
9. In all cases, once a decision is made by the Ward to have the procedure, time becomes important. The physical impact of the procedure increases after 13 weeks into the pregnancy.

II. TRANSPORTATION OF WARD PROCEDURE

When Probation Officers transport a Ward to the Family Planning Associates Medical Group, for any procedure, including an abortion, the following procedure must be followed:

- A. Officers will maintain a low profile;
- B. Officers will wear street clothes with no discernable Probation Department identification.
- C. An unmarked county vehicle without a cage will be used to transport the Ward to the clinic, located at 2500 H Street, Bakersfield the telephone number is 661-633-5266. The Ward will not be transported in restraints. If the Ward is a security risk, two officers will be used to transport.
- D. It is preferred that officers do not transport Wards to the clinic while armed; however, if circumstances indicate the need to transport armed, approval

must be obtained from the Probation Division Director. When officers transport while armed, they are to use their alternative holsters and the weapon must be concealed. All appropriate identification shall be carried.

- E. Officers will attempt to avoid contact with the public. At times, public demonstrations are held outside the Family Planning Associates Medical Group. Should officers be aggressively confronted by the public, they are to return to the Probation Department or if necessary, law enforcement assistance should be requested through Control One. The telephone number to contact Control One is 661-868-4075.
- F. If the security level or risk to the community is low and the Ward has informed the parent of the procedure, the parent may provide transportation.
- G. After completion of the procedure, all medical documents and treatment orders will be given to the institution nurse.
- H. The transportation officer will notify the Probation Supervisor of any problems which occurred at the clinic or during the procedure. All information will be reported to the appropriate Assistant Division Director and/or Probation Division Director.
- I. All other Department procedures regarding the transportation of subjects will be followed with the exception of the use of restraints.
- J. In all cases, once a decision is made by the Ward to have the procedure, time becomes important. The physical impact of the procedure increases after 13 weeks into the pregnancy.