

# HEALTHWEST

## Policy and Procedure

No. 04-008

Prepared by:  
The Office of Recipient Rights

Effective: April 22, 1983  
Reviewed: July 5, 2017  
Subject: Family Planning

Approved by:

---

Julia B. Rupp, Executive Director

### I. POLICY

- A. HealthWest staff shall not advise recipients, or their legal representatives, on whether or not to seek an abortion or sterilization. Staff may assist recipients, or their legal representatives, in reaching a decision regarding abortion or sterilization through standard counseling practices. Such practices may include values clarification, examination of alternatives, securing information from pertinent community resources, and making referrals for specialized counseling related to abortion or sterilization.
- B. HealthWest staff may assist recipients, or their legal representatives, in obtaining information, education and assistance in securing supplies related to family planning, and health services.
- C. The supplying of non-prescription contraceptive supplies does not require guardian consent.
- D. Mental health services will not be contingent upon a recipient receiving family planning services.

### II. PURPOSE

To ensure family planning issues and options for recipients are addressed according to the Mental Health Code and Administrative Rules.

### III. APPLICATION

All mental health programs operated by or under contract with HealthWest.

### IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Abortion: The termination of pregnancy before the stage of viability induced or performed purposely as by a surgeon.

- B. Contraception: The prevention of conception by chemical or mechanical means, not to include surgical sterilization.
- C. Recipient: A person who receives mental health services from HealthWest.
- D. Sterilization: The process of rendering an individual incapable of reproduction.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. The individual in charge of the recipient's written plan of service shall provide recipients, or their legal representatives, with notice of the availability of family planning, and health information services.
- B. The individual in charge of the recipient's written plan of service shall provide referral assistance to providers of family planning, and health information services upon request of the recipient, guardian or parent of a minor.
- C. The notice shall include a statement that receiving mental health services does not depend in any way on requesting or not requesting family planning or health information services.

VI. REFERENCES

Administrative Rule R 330.7029.