

**Document Code No.:** PHL-13-1-EO

**Title:** Use of Executive Branch Resources to Impede Reproductive Health Care Prohibited

**Keywords:** Reproductive, Health Care, Abortion

**Sponsoring Agency:** King County Executive



**King County**

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**USE OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH RESOURCES TO IMPEDE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE  
PROHIBITED**

**WHEREAS** King County is committed to recognizing the rights of every individual, including the right of reproductive freedom and the right of privacy;

**WHEREAS** King County is committed to providing affordable, high quality reproductive health care benefits, including abortion care, to its employees;

**WHEREAS** All persons in King County, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or immigration status should have access to comprehensive reproductive health care services;

**WHEREAS** the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health Organization* overruled *Roe v. Wade*, which had guaranteed a constitutional right of reproductive freedom since 1973;

**WHEREAS** the current efforts of many states to severely restrict or abolish access to reproductive health care, including criminal prosecution or civil causes of action against persons seeking, receiving, providing, or assisting with obtaining reproductive health care that is legal and accessible in Washington State is contrary to King County's commitment to reproductive freedom and the right of privacy;

**WHEREAS** King County is obligated to protect the individual rights of persons who obtain health care in King County, including the right to reproductive health care in accordance with Washington State law;

**WHEREAS** King County recognizes a moral and policy imperative not to assist states and other outside organizations and individuals seeking to infringe the rights of persons who obtain health care in King County;

**WHEREAS** King County affirms that health care professionals providing reproductive health care in accordance with Washington State law must be protected from persecution, prosecution, professional sanctions, and civil liability;

**WHEREAS** King County affirms that people seeking reproductive health care in King County in accordance with Washington State law, as well as people who assist and support them in doing

so, must be protected from persecution, prosecution and civil liability for exercising rights protected under Washington law;

**WHEREAS** Article 1, section 7 of the Washington State Constitution provides broader protection of individual privacy than the federal Constitution;

**WHEREAS** King County affirms, in the strongest possible terms, that abortion care is health care;

1.0 Definitions

1.1. "Reproductive health care" means care necessary to support the reproductive system, the capability to reproduce, and the freedom and services necessary to decide if, when, and how often to do so, which can include contraception, cancer and disease screenings, abortion, pre-conception, maternity, prenatal, and postpartum care. (See RCW 48.43.072, Findings (3))

1.2. "Prosecution, professional sanctions, and civil liability" means actions arising from laws in other states that prohibit, restrict, or create causes of action against access to reproductive health care that is lawful in Washington State, including abortion bans, "heartbeat" laws, and "bounty" laws. It does not include crimes, licensing consequences, or civil causes of action that would be cognizable under Washington State law.

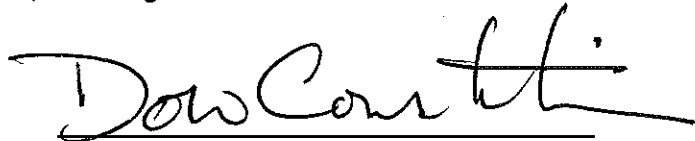
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dow Constantine, King County Executive, do hereby order and direct that:**

1. No King County executive departmental resources, including personnel, may be used in a manner that obstructs, restricts, diminishes, or discourages any person from seeking and obtaining reproductive health care that is lawful in the State of Washington.
2. Absent a specific court order directed to a King County official by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Washington, no King County executive branch agency or its employees shall assist with executions of judgments, detention of any person, providing information, or any act whatsoever that would tend to assist any person, government or corporation with prosecution, professional sanctions or other civil liability related to the exercise of reproductive health care rights that are provided by laws of the State of Washington.
3. This order includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). Unless specifically ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Washington, the KCSO, its Deputies, and civilian staff will not arrest or detain, nor serve a warrant, subpoena, or civil process, nor assist in enforcing judgment or extradition, on any person who has sought,

obtained, provided, or assisted with obtaining reproductive health care that is lawful in the State of Washington.

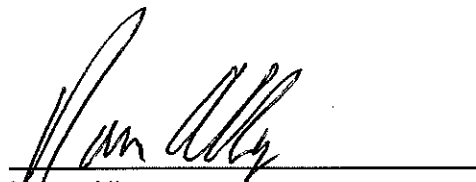
- b. Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention ("DAJD"). Unless specifically ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Washington, the DAJD and its employees will not accept for booking or detention any person who has been arrested or is pending extradition for seeking, obtaining, providing, or assisting with obtaining reproductive health care that is lawful in the State of Washington.
- c. Public Health – Seattle and King County ("PHSKC"). Unless specifically ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Washington, PHSKC; and its employees, shall not provide information to any government, corporation or person related to the prosecution, professional sanctions or civil liability of reproductive health care that is legal in the State of Washington.

Signed this 5th day of July 2022 at Seattle, Washington



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Attest:



Norm Alberg  
Director, Records and Licensing Services Division, Department of Executive Services