



Human Trafficking

Required Signage for Abortion Facilities and Hospitals

House Bill 2552, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, became effective on September 1, 2017. This bill requires all hospitals licensed under Health & Safety Code 241, and abortion facilities, including ambulatory surgical centers that perform abortions, to post human trafficking signage.

HB 2552 requires facilities to post separate signs in English, Spanish and any other language prevalent in the community. According to the bill, a facility must only display a separate sign in an additional language if it is in a political subdivision required to provide election materials in a language other than English or Spanish. Signs must be at least 8½ by 11 inches in size, with the notice covering at least four-fifths of the sign, and displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public and employees. Below is the information the law requires in English and Spanish.

ENGLISH

1. No person, including an individual's parents, may force any individual to have an abortion;
2. It is illegal for a person to force an individual to engage in sexual acts;
3. A woman who needs help may call or text a state or national organization that assists victims of human trafficking and forced abortions. The National Human Trafficking Hotline is available 24/7 by phone at (888) 373-7888 or Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733).

SPANISH

1. Ninguna persona, incluyendo los padres de un individuo, puede obligar a cualquier persona a tener un aborto.
2. Es ilegal que una persona obligue a un individuo a participar en actos sexuales.

3. Una mujer que necesita ayuda puede llamar o enviar un mensaje de texto a una organización estatal o nacional que ayuda a las víctimas de la trata de personas o del aborto forzado. La línea nacional de ayuda para casos de trata de personas está disponible las 24 horas del día y los 7 días de la semana. Llame al (888) 373-7888 o envíe un texto con la palabra INFO o AYUDE al 233733 (BeFree).

Abortion facilities must display signs in each restroom and patient consulting room.

Ambulatory surgical centers must display signs in each patient restroom, patient consulting room or interview space, and patient dressing area.

Hospitals must display signs in each restroom located in the emergency department and each patient consulting room.

Displaying a sign in the evaluation or treatment areas of the emergency department, such as the triage area, satisfies the requirement to post in a patient consulting room. The human trafficking signage is not required in the emergency department waiting room or in patient rooms.

A sample sign has been created for your convenience, but facilities may create their own sign as long as it complies with the law. For questions, please contact the Health Facility Licensing program at (512) 834-4576 or infohflc@hhsc.state.tx.us.