

**FILED**

09/01/2023

*Angie Sparks*  
CLERK

Lewis & Clark County District Court  
STATE OF MONTANA

By: Helen Coleman

DV-25-2023-0000592-CR

Abbott, Christopher David

9.00

# **EXHIBIT 1**

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**From:** Wooten, Tara <Tara.Wooten@mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 8:46 AM  
**To:** Helen Weems <helen@allfamilieshealth.org>  
**Cc:** Nelson, Brian <Brian.Nelson@mt.gov>; Nicole Smith <nksmith@bluemountainclinic.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] HB 937 and abortion clinic licensing

Hi Ms. Weems,

Thank you for reaching out. To address the first question below, the criteria for being licensed as an abortion clinic has been defined in HB 937 under Section 1. If a facility meets the definition in (a) and is not excluded in the criteria listed in (b), then the facility will need to be licensed as an Abortion Clinic.

In response to your second question, yes, DPHHS is already engaged in the rulemaking processes for licensure of Abortion Clinics. Deadlines, and variances from them if needed, will be reviewed and discussed internally among DPHHS agencies.

Thank you,

Tara Wooten  
Healthcare Facility Program Manager  
Licensure Bureau  
Office of Inspector General, DPHHS  
406-439-2504

*~Everyday is the first day of the rest of your life~*

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**From:** Helen Weems <[helen@allfamilieshealth.org](mailto:helen@allfamilieshealth.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:55 AM  
**To:** Wooten, Tara <[Tara.Wooten@mt.gov](mailto:Tara.Wooten@mt.gov)>; Nelson, Brian <[Brian.Nelson@mt.gov](mailto:Brian.Nelson@mt.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nicole Smith <[nksmith@bluemountainclinic.org](mailto:nksmith@bluemountainclinic.org)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 937 and abortion clinic licensing

Ms. Wooten and Mr. Nelson,

We are writing on behalf of All Families Healthcare and Blue Mountain Clinic with two questions about HB 937. The law is scheduled to take effect on October 1 and directs DPHHS to develop licensing regulations for abortion clinics.

First, does DPHHS understand HB 937 to require clinics that provide abortion care to become licensed as abortion clinics, or may clinicians' offices that provide abortion care continue to do so without facility licensure? We understand "abortion clinic" has been added to the definition of "health care facility," but that, per MCA 50-5-101(26)(b), "health care facility" continues not to include the offices of clinicians regulated under Title 37.

Second, does DPHHS intend to engage in the rulemaking process in advance of the legislation's effective date and, if so, when do you expect that process would start? We know that the rulemaking process can take some time, as could DPHHS's consideration of any applications for licensure, and October 1 is not far off.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience. Of course, please also let us know if we should contact someone else at DPHHS with these questions.

Thank you,

Helen Weems

Founder and Owner, All Families Healthcare

Nicole Smith

Executive Director, Blue Mountain Clinic

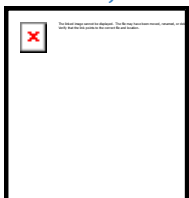
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**Helen Weems, MSN, APRN**

she/her

Family Nurse Practitioner

Director, All Families Healthcare



PO Box 4027 / 737 Spokane Ave

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Alexander H. Rate, hereby certify that I have served true and accurate copies of the foregoing Notice - Notice to the following on 09-01-2023:

Austin Miles Knudsen (Govt Attorney)

215 N. Sanders

Helena MT 59620

Representing: Charlie Brereton, State of Montana, Department of Public Health and Human Services

Service Method: eService

Electronically signed by Krystel Pickens on behalf of Alexander H. Rate

Dated: 09-01-2023