

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 11, 2015**

**DHEC Takes Enforcement Action Following Review of Abortion Clinics in South Carolina**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announced today enforcement actions following the investigation and inspection of abortion clinics in South Carolina.

[QUOTE FROM CH – followed the law; will work with facilities to get them to compliance]

DHEC regulates and licenses abortion clinics and the management of infectious waste.

On August 18, 2015, Governor Nikki Haley requested that the agency conduct an investigation of the three clinics currently operating in the state.

As part of the investigation, DHEC reviewed prior inspection reports of these facilities and conducted onsite inspections between August 31 and September 4, 2015. All three facilities were due to be inspected by the agency later this fall.

During the onsite inspections, DHEC staff interviewed clinic personnel, reviewed documents and patient files, and conducted an inspection of the facilities.

Based on these investigative and inspection efforts, DHEC took the following enforcement actions:

- The agency issued an Administrative Order of Suspension for Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic in Columbia, S.C., due to violations of state laws and regulations. Cited violations included: non-compliance with the Women's Right to Know Act, incomplete medical and employee records, expired medications, improper infectious waste disposal practices, and failure to report abortions to DHEC Vital Statistics in a timely manner. The facility has 15 days to address the cited violations and come into compliance before facing closure.
- The agency issued an Administrative Order of Suspension for Greenville Women's Clinic due to violations of state laws and regulations. Cited violations included: non-compliance with the Women's Right to Know Act, incomplete medical record documentation, and improper infectious waste disposal practices. The facility has 15 days to address the cited violations and come into compliance before facing closure.
- The agency issued a Report of Visit to the Charleston Women's Medical Center, which notifies the facility of minor violations that need to be corrected such as a documentation error. The facility will be required to submit a plan of correction to the agency within 15 days.

Additionally, DHEC took enforcement action related to the management of infectious waste at all three facilities and against two companies that transport waste for [NAMES OF TWO CLINICS]: Stericycle and MedSharpes. Cited violations included insufficient documentation of waste disposal practices, failure to follow disposal protocol, and improper disposal of products of conception. The facilities and infectious

waste transport companies have 15 days to meet with agency staff to discuss corrective actions and possible civil penalties.

In order to lift their suspension orders and avoid closure, Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic in Columbia, S.C., and Greenville Women's Clinic will have to submit a plan of correction to DHEC within 15 days, show proof of staff training, and pay any assessed penalties.

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Additional information for editors and reporters:

- For a copy of the investigative and inspection reports, [click here](#).
- For a copy of the enforcement actions, [click here](#).
- For 2014 abortion statistics by facility, [click here](#).

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