

Title: Voluntary Service Provision	Policy Number: 1.7
Approved By: Belinda Pettiford, MPH	Program Area: Family Planning
Effective Date: 1970	Revised Date: 7/18/2012

Purpose Statement of Policy:

To assure that services are provided solely on a voluntary basis to all men and women of child-bearing age seeking family planning services provided by Title X.

Definition:

Defined within the Voluntary Service Provision policy the following areas must be addressed:

- Participation in any services in the family planning clinic must be solely on a voluntary basis.
- Individuals must not be subjected to coercion to receive services or to use or not use any particular method of family planning.
- Acceptance of family planning services must not be a prerequisite to eligibility for, or receipt of, any other service or assistance from any non-Title X service..
- Agency personnel must be informed that they may be subject to prosecution under Federal law if they coerce or endeavor to coerce any person to undergo an abortion or sterilization procedure.

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the local health department and its designated personnel to develop, implement, and ensure compliance among all staff on the administration of the Voluntary Service Provision in the Title X Family Planning Clinic.

Policy:

The local health department will ensure that written policies are in place that address the above required areas for the provision of voluntary services for clients seeking family planning services provided by Title X.

Legal Authority:

This policy is based on Title X regulations (January, 2001) Section 5.1 concerning voluntary participation in family planning services.

References:

NC Women’s Health Branch
 Family Planning Policy Manual/Voluntary Service Participation
 July, 2012
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Title X Guidelines can be accessed at:

https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/servlet/document.DownloadPdfPublicServlet?document_id=7157

For examples of policies from the local level, please contact your Regional Women's Health Nurse Consultant.