


<p>California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Stephen Woolery, Chief</p> 	<h1>INFORMATION BULLETIN</h1>	
<p><i>Subject:</i></p> <p>Anti-Reproductive Rights Crimes – Policies and Standards</p>	<p><i>No.</i></p> <p>2024-DLE-14</p>	<p><i>Contact for information:</i></p> <p>Karli Eisenberg Supervising Deputy Attorney General Public Rights Division 916-210-7913</p>
	<p><i>Date:</i></p> <p>11/06/2024</p>	

TO: All CALIFORNIA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, CHIEFS OF POLICE, SHERIFFS, AND STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In response to the rising threat of violence and criminal harassment against reproductive healthcare providers, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1356 (AB 1356) in 2021. The Legislature found that “existing laws did not sufficiently deter anti-abortion extremists,” and that “patients are more likely to forgo essential health services when faced with harassment and threats of harm as they approach reproductive health centers.” The Legislature declared its intent “to ensure that people who need access to family planning and other sexual and reproductive health care services can do so confidentially and in a timely manner without harassment, threats, or fear of bodily harm.”

As such, effective January 1, 2023, state law requires that state and local law enforcement agencies develop, adopt, and implement written policies and standards for officers’ responses to anti-reproductive-rights calls. (Pen. Code, § 13778.1.) This bulletin outlines these changes and highlights some guidance materials on this topic.

Written Policy Requirements

As of January 1, 2023, “[e]very law enforcement agency in this state shall develop, adopt, and implement written policies and standards for officers’ responses to anti-reproductive-rights calls.” (Pen. Code, § 13778.1.) An anti-reproductive-rights crime is “a crime committed partly or wholly because the victim is a reproductive health services patient, provider, or assistant.” (Pen. Code, § 13776, subd. (a).) It also includes “a crime that is partly or wholly intended to intimidate the victim, any other person or entity, or a class of persons or entities from becoming or remaining a reproductive health services patient, provider, or assistant.” (Ibid.)

Additional Guidance Materials

In May 2023, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) issued its revised Guidelines on Anti-Reproductive-Rights Crimes. Those Guidelines are available here:

https://post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post_docs/publications/Anti-Reproductive-Rights_Crimes.pdf.

The California Attorney General’s Office has also put together a training for law enforcement regarding anti-reproductive-rights crimes. This training can be conducted at roll calls or at other law enforcement meetings. If you are interested in a training by the California Attorney General’s Office, please contact Supervising

Deputy Attorney General Karli Eisenberg at Karli.Eisenberg@doj.ca.gov or (916) 210-7913, or Deputy Attorney General Robyn Riedel at Robyn.Riedel@doj.ca.gov or (916) 210-7365.