



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ANDREW BAILEY

March 5, 2025

Margot Riphagen
President and CEO
Planned Parenthood Great Rivers—Missouri
4251 Forest Park Ave
Saint Louis, MO 63108-2810

Registered agent, CAPITOL CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.
222 E. Dunklin St., Ste. 102
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Notice of Intent to Serve a Cease and Desist Order

Dear Ms. Riphagen:

This letter serves as notice under § 407.095 of the Attorney General’s intent to serve a cease-and-desist order on your organization imminently. This cease-and-desist order would prohibit you from performing chemically induced abortions in Missouri for the duration of the order. Under the statute, you “have two business days” to “file an answer” to this notice, *id.*, after which time the Attorney General may issue an order.

“Whenever it appears to the attorney general that a person has engaged in, is engaging in or *is about to engage in* any method, act, use, practice or solicitation declared to be unlawful” under Missouri’s consumer-protection statute, the Attorney General may issue “an order prohibiting such person or persons from engaging or continuing to engage in such unlawful method, act, use, practice or solicitation.” *Id.* (emphasis added); *Hennessey v. Gap, Inc.*, No. 4:19-CV-01867-SEP, 2022 WL 4447399, at *3 (E.D. Mo. Sept. 23, 2022), *aff’d*, 86 F.4th 823 (8th Cir. 2023); *cf. Moore v. Webster*, 932 F.2d 1229, 1231 (8th Cir. 1991). Missouri’s consumer-protection law broadly prohibits any unfair or deceptive trade practice. § 407.020. Its “literal words cover every practice imaginable and every unfairness to whatever degree.” *Ports Petroleum Co., Inc. of Ohio v. Nixon*, 37 S.W.3d 237, 240 (Mo. banc 2001). That includes violations of “any public policy as it has been established by

the Constitution, statutes or common law of this state” if the violation risks causing “substantial injury to consumers.” *Id.* (quoting 15 CSR 60–8.02).

Performing chemically induced abortions without a valid complication plan violates the laws of this State “[w]hen the Food and Drug Administration label of any drug or chemical used for the purpose of inducing an abortion includes any clinical study in which more than one percent of those administered the drug or chemical required surgical intervention after its administration.” § 188.021.2. And it is clear that chemically inducing an abortion creates a serious risk of injury. After all, FDA has recognized that up to 4.6% of women who receive chemical abortions are forced to seek emergency medical attention. *MIFEPREX FDA Label*, tbl. 2, https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/020687s020lbl.pdf.

My understanding is that any chemically induced abortion you would perform would involve a drug or chemical satisfying the trigger in this statute. As you know, a court in Jackson County has preliminarily enjoined a regulation passed under this statute, but not the statute itself. Because your facility does not appear to have an approved complication plan, it is unlawful for your organization to perform any chemically induced abortions in Missouri.

This letter serves as notice that I am considering issuing an order under my authority under § 407.095 of the Revised Missouri Statutes temporarily restraining you and your employees and agents from engaging in any future conduct that would violate the law as explained above.

You have the right to respond before any action is taken against you. § 407.095.1. Within two business days following service of this notice, you may file an answer with my office. I reserve the right to take further action if upon service of your answer or the expiration of the time to file it, whichever comes first, it appears to me that any of your facilities is at risk of violating the law.

Sincerely,



ANDREW BAILEY
Missouri Attorney General