

**X STATE MEDICAL CENTER  
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**PROCEDURE FOR OPTING OUT OF A PORTION OF RESIDENCY TRAINING**

We have developed a mechanism for helping residents who are struggling with the dilemma of whether they hold a moral objection to a particular procedure, or whether they are just disturbed by or uncomfortable with the procedure itself.

It is the department's *expectation* that all residents will receive instruction in all aspects of residency training, including but not limited to:

- contraception including tubal ligation
- abortion counseling and techniques
- male circumcision

It is not the department's policy that residents will be required to perform procedures that violate their beliefs.

1. The resident will meet with the key faculty member for the rotation and the program director. The purpose of this panel will be to be supportive and constructive and not directive and coercive.
2. The resident will discuss their beliefs and concerns about this portion of their residency training.
3. The resident will delineate precisely what aspects of the rotation or training they do not want to participate in.
4. Faculty will help the resident identify key skills that are learned during this portion of their training, including career opportunities and limitations.
5. The resident will present alternative opportunities for obtaining these skills, if applicable.
6. Faculty will implement a process to ensure that the resident learns the critical skills via other opportunities.

7. A summary of the meeting with the faculty member and the program director will be signed by all three physicians and will be placed in the resident's file.
8. Permission to opt out of a portion of training will be approved by the program director after the above steps are taken.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Director