



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FFAFP  
State Health Commissioner

Department of Health  
P O BOX 2448  
RICHMOND, VA 23218

TTY 7-1-1 OR  
1-800-828-1120

August 25, 2014

Jill C. Abbey, Administrator  
Richmond Medical Center for Women  
118 North Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Dear Ms. Abbey:

**RE: Richmond Medical Center for Women, Richmond, Virginia: Temporary Licensure Variance**

I am writing in response to your letter requesting approval of variances to specific sections of the *Regulations for Licensure of Abortion Facilities* ("Regulations"). The Regulations, at 12VAC5-412-80 Allowable variances, permit temporary variances to abortion facility licensure regulations "when the standard or requirement poses an impractical hardship unique to the abortion facility and when a temporary variance to it would not endanger the safety or well-being of patients."

Richmond Medical Center for Women seeks a variance to the Regulations at 12VAC5-412-370 and, more specifically, to the section(s) of the 2010 Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities of the Facilities Guidelines Institute listed below.

2010 Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities

Part 3; subsection 3.1-7 Design and Construction Requirements.

Richmond Medical Center for Women has provided adequate information to establish that compliance with 12VAC5-412-370 would create an impractical hardship unique to the facility and that patient safety and patient well-being will not be endangered if a temporary variance is granted. Specifically, compliance with the construction standards will represent a prohibitive cost to the facility.

Richmond Medical Center for Women has identified alternatives to meet the purpose of the specific regulation(s) to which the temporary variance is being sought that will ensure the protection and well-being of patients. In addition, Richmond Medical Center for Women has

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developed a plan for the long-term compliance with the specific regulation(s) for which the temporary variance was sought. I am therefore granting a temporary variance, in accordance with 12VAC5-412-80, to the Regulations at 12VAC5-412-370 and, more specifically, to the section(s) of the 2010 Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities listed above. I am issuing this variance on the conditions that Richmond Medical Center for Women continue to comply with all plans of correction and that information submitted in connection with the variance request is verified by Virginia Department of Health staff through inspection of pertinent documents. This temporary variance expires on April 30, 2015, when the license for Richmond Medical Center for Women expires.

This temporary variance may be rescinded or modified if: (i) conditions change; (ii) additional information becomes known that alters the basis for the original decision; (iii) the abortion facility fails to meet any conditions attached to the temporary variance; or (iv) results of the temporary variance jeopardize the safety or well-being of patients. If this temporary variance expires or is rescinded, routine enforcement of the standard or requirement to which the temporary variance was granted shall be resumed. If you need further assistance or have questions about this variance, please contact Mr. Erik Bodin, Director, Office of Licensure and Certification by telephone at (804) 367-2102 or by email at [Erik.Bodin@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Erik.Bodin@vdh.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,



Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
State Health Commissioner

CC: Erik Bodin, Director  
Office of Licensure and Certification