



## **NATIONAL ABORTION FEDERATION GUIDELINES RELATING TO FETAL TISSUE DONATION**

All NAF members must adhere to the applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations governing fetal tissue donation. As stated in the *Clinical Policy Guidelines*: “All surgically removed tissue must be considered biohazardous and be handled, stored, and disposed of in a manner that minimizes the risk of exposure. A protocol for tissue handling, storage, and disposal must be in place.” (*Clinical Policy Guidelines 2015*, Infection Prevention and Control, Standard 3.8, p. 5).

Federal laws and regulations address:

- I. Informed consent for fetal tissue donation may not be obtained until after a patient has given full informed consent for the abortion.
- II. A woman’s decision to donate fetal tissue must be voluntary and uncoerced. Providers must not offer any financial or other incentives to the patient.
- III. Clinics and providers cannot financially gain from their participation in fetal tissue donation. Remuneration is limited to “reasonable payments associated with the transportation, implantation, processing, preservation, quality control, or storage of fetal tissue” (NIH Revitalization Act of 1993).
- IV. Providers cannot change abortion procedures specifically to accommodate fetal tissue collection needs.

NAF providers should consult their legal counsel to ensure that their practice is in compliance with any additional state and local regulations and laws.