

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
GALVESTON DIVISION

**Jerry Rodriguez and Isabella Irene
Rodriguez,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

Remy Coeytaux,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:26-cv-207

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

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California’s shield law allows abortion providers to file revenge lawsuits against anyone who sues or prosecutes them over their illegal abortion-pill shipments into other states. *See* Cal. Civil Code § 1798.300 *et seq.* (attached as Exhibit 1). It authorizes these lawsuits even when the abortion provider is sued or prosecuted in a state or federal court outside California—and even when the provider is sued or prosecuted for conduct that indisputably violates the laws of another state or the federal laws that criminalize abortion-pill shipments.¹ *See* Cal. Civil Code § 1798.300(a)(1)–(2).

California allows these lawsuits to be filed against any person who “engages or attempts to engage”² in litigation over Coeytaux’s illegal abortion-pill shipments or his violations of Texas’s murder laws, which includes not only Mr. and Ms. Rodriguez but anyone who testifies as a witness or otherwise assists the plaintiffs in litigating their claims. If Coeytaux were to sue Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez (or anyone else) under this clawback provision, California law would entitle Coeytaux to recover three times the amount of any judgment that the plaintiffs obtain against him in this lawsuit—plus three times the amount of any “expenses, costs, or reasonable attorney’s fees” or other “actual damages” that Coeytaux incurs on account of that lawsuit. *See* Cal. Civil Code § 1798.305.

The plaintiffs respectfully move for a preliminary injunction that will restrain Coeytaux from suing Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez, their attorneys, or any person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the plaintiffs under these clawback provisions of California law. The plaintiffs are entitled to a preliminary injunction

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1. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 1461–1462.
 2. Cal. Civil Code § 1798.303.

because the law of Texas applies to this case,³ and it requires this Court to issue an antisuit injunction to prevent Coeytaux from suing Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez or any person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the plaintiffs under these clawback provisions. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c). The plaintiffs also satisfy the remaining elements of the preliminary-injunction inquiry, as they will suffer irreparable harm absent preliminary relief, the balance of equities weigh in their favor, and the public interest supports preliminary injunctive relief.

THE PLAINTIFFS ARE ENTITLED TO A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

There are four factors to consider when deciding whether to issue a preliminary injunction: (1) whether the plaintiffs will likely succeed on the merits of their request for an anti-clawback injunction; (2) whether the plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm absent preliminary relief; (3) whether the balance of equities favors a preliminary injunction; and (4) the public interest. *See Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008); *Voting for America, Inc. v. Steen*, 732 F.3d 382, 386 (5th Cir. 2013). Each of these four factors favors preliminary relief.

I. The Plaintiffs Will Likely Succeed On The Merits Of Their Request For An Anti-Clawback Injunction

Mr. and Ms. Rodriguez will likely succeed on the merits of their request for an anti-clawback injunction because Texas law applies to this diversity action,⁴ and section 171A.151(c) of the Texas Health and Safety Code requires this Court to enjoin

3. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(b).

4. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(b); *Klaxon Co. v. Stentor Electric Manufacturing Co., Inc.*, 313 U.S. 487, 496–97 (1941) (federal diversity courts must apply the forum state’s choice-of-law rules).

Coeytaux from suing the plaintiffs under California's clawback provisions. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c) (attached as Exhibit 2).

A. The Law Of Texas Applies To This Case

A federal diversity court must apply the choice-of-law rules of the forum state. *See Klaxon Co. v. Stentor Electric Manufacturing Co., Inc.*, 313 U.S. 487, 496–97 (1941). And Texas's HB 7 makes clear that Texas law applies not only to Ms. Rodriguez's qui tam claim against Coeytaux,⁵ but also to any ancillary litigation surrounding the enforceability of California's clawback law against Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez or any person providing them with legal representation or assistance.

Section 171A.151 of the Texas Health and Safety Code provides, in relevant part:

(a) For purposes of this section, the term “clawback provision” refers to any law of another state or jurisdiction that authorizes the bringing of a civil action against a person for:

- (1) bringing or engaging in an action authorized by this chapter, including Subsection (f);
- (2) bringing or engaging in an action that alleges a violation of Section 171A.051;
- (3) attempting, intending, or threatening to bring or engage in an action described by Subdivision (1) or (2); or
- (4) providing legal representation or any type of assistance to a person who brings or engages in an action described by Subdivision (1) or (2).

(b) Notwithstanding any other law and except as otherwise provided by federal law or the Texas Constitution, the laws of this state apply to:

5. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.106(b) (“Notwithstanding any other law, the law of this state applies to an action brought under Section 171A.101 to the maximum extent permitted by the Texas Constitution and federal law, including the United States Constitution.”).

- (1) conduct described by Subsection (a);
- (2) an action brought against a person for engaging in conduct described by Subsection (a);
- (3) an action brought under a clawback provision against a resident of this state; and
- (4) an action brought under Subsection (f).

Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(a)–(b). After subsection (a) defines “clawback provision,” subsection (b) declares that Texas law will govern:

- The “bringing” of or the “engaging in” the action filed against Coeytaux;⁶
- The provision of “legal representation or any type of assistance” to Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez;⁷ and
- Any clawback action that might be brought against Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez or any person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez in this litigation.⁸

So the enforceability of California’s clawback provision against the plaintiffs or any person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the plaintiffs in this litigation is governed by Texas law. *See Klaxon*, 313 U.S. at 496–97.

B. The Plaintiffs Will Likely Succeed On Their Claim That Texas Law Requires The Issuance Of An Anti-Clawback Injunction

Section 171A.151 of the Texas Health and Safety Code goes on to require the issuance of anti-clawback injunction in any action that includes a claim brought under the qui tam provisions of HB 7:

- (c) Notwithstanding any other law, in an action described by Subsection (a)(1) or (2), the court shall, on request, issue a temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunction that restrains each defendant in the

6. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(b)(1).

7. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(b)(1).

8. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(b)(2).

action, each person in privity with the defendant, and each person with whom the defendant is in active concert or participation from:

- (1) bringing an action under any clawback provision against a claimant or prosecutor, a person in privity with the claimant or prosecutor, or a person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the claimant or prosecutor; and
- (2) continuing to litigate an action under any clawback provision that has been brought against a claimant or prosecutor, a person in privity with the claimant or prosecutor, or a person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the claimant or prosecutor.

Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c).

The provisions of California law that authorize Coeytaux to file retaliatory lawsuits satisfy the definition of “clawback provision” in subsection (a). The plaintiffs have brought “an action authorized by this chapter”⁹ by suing Coeytaux and alleging violations of section 171A.101(a) of the Texas Health and Safety Code,¹⁰ and California’s shield law authorizes Coeytaux to bring a civil action against the plaintiffs for “engaging”¹¹ in this action. *See* Cal. Civil Code § 1798.303 (authorizing retaliatory lawsuits against anyone who “engages or attempts to engage in abusive litigation that infringes on or interferes with, or attempts to infringe on or interfere with, a legally protected health care activity”); Cal. Civil Code § 1798.300(d) (defining “legally protected health care activity” to include the mailing of abortion pills from California to patients in other states); Cal. Civil Code § 1798.300(a) (defining “abusive litigation” to encompass “litigation or other legal action to deter, prevent, sanction, or punish a person engaging in legally protected health care activity by . . . (1) Filing or

9. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(a)(1).

10. *See* First Amended Complaint, ECF No. 16, at ¶¶ 30–33.

11. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(a)(1).

prosecuting an action in a state other than California where liability, in whole or part, directly or indirectly, is based on a legally protected health care activity that was legal in the state in which it occurred, including an action in which liability is based on a theory of vicarious, joint, or several liability.”).

The plaintiffs are therefore entitled to a preliminary antisuit injunction that restrains Coeytaux from suing Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez, a person in privity with Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez, or any person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to Mr. or Ms. Rodriguez under California’s shield law or any similar “clawback” provision. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c).

II. The Remaining Preliminary-Injunction Factors Support Relief

The Court must also consider whether the plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm absent a preliminary injunction, the balance of equities, and where the public interest lies. *See Winter*, 555 U.S. at 20. Each of these factors supports the plaintiffs’ request for a preliminary injunction.

A. The Plaintiffs Will Suffer Irreparable Harm Absent A Preliminary Injunction

The plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm absent a preliminary injunction because they will be unable to litigate their wrongful-death and HB 7 claims against Coeytaux without exposing themselves to ruinous civil liability. Their only choices will be to abandon their wrongful-death and HB 7 claims against Coeytaux, or else forge ahead and face a future clawback lawsuit from Coeytaux for three times the amount of any judgment that the plaintiffs *win* against Coeytaux in this case—*plus* three times the amount of any “expenses, costs, or reasonable attorney’s fees” or other “actual damages” that Coeytaux incurs on account of this lawsuit. This is not an injury that can be remedied with an award of damages against Coeytaux, because

Coeytaux is not subject to damages liability for the California legislature's decision to enact a statute authorizing private civil lawsuits. *See Howard Gault Co. v. Texas Rural Legal Aid, Inc.*, 848 F.2d 544, 555 (5th Cir. 1988) (“[P]urely private individuals. . . cannot be held liable in a § 1983 suit simply because they filed suit under Texas statutes and obtained a temporary restraining order”); *McCartney v. First City Bank*, 970 F.2d 45, 47 (5th Cir. 1992) (“If a state merely allows private litigants to use its courts, there is no state action within the meaning of § 1983 unless ‘there is corruption of judicial power by the private litigant.’” (quoting *Earnest v. Lowentritt*, 690 F.2d 1198, 1200 (5th Cir. 1982))).

The plaintiffs' lawyer will also be facing a conflict of interest if this Court denies a preliminary injunction. If he zealously represents the plaintiffs and wins a favorable judgment on his clients' behalf, that will *increase* the clawback liability that he will face if Coeytaux decides to file a revenge lawsuit against Mr. and Ms. Rodriguez's lawyer. California's clawback regime means that a lawyer's success on behalf of his client winds up *increasing* the lawyer's exposure (and his client's exposure) to clawback liability, while a lawyer who loses or bungles the job *reduces* the treble-damages liability that he (and his clients) will face in a subsequent clawback lawsuit. It is hard to see how a lawyer could ethically represent a client under these circumstances, which only underscores the need for an immediate anti-clawback injunction.

B. The Balance of Equities Favors A Preliminary Injunction

Coeytaux will not be harmed by a preliminary injunction because Texas law requires this Court to enter a permanent anti-clawback injunction against Coeytaux at the conclusion of this litigation. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c). So the preliminary injunction will merely restrain Coeytaux from filing lawsuits that are

doomed to fail as soon as the permanent anti-clawback injunction is entered against him, which will bar him from continuing to litigate any clawback claims that he had previously initiated against the plaintiffs or those assisting them. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c)(2).

If Coeytaux argues that this should qualify as “harm,” it is more than outweighed by the harms that will be inflicted on the plaintiffs in the absence of a preliminary injunction. Denying relief will leave the plaintiffs exposed to clawback litigation in which they will be unable to recoup the costs of defending themselves even if they eventually defeat the lawsuits. And it will leave the plaintiffs unable to recruit or obtain attorneys to represent them in this lawsuit who are free from conflicts of interest. Those harms outweigh any burdens that might be imposed on Coeytaux from taking away his ability to file revenge lawsuits during the pendency of this litigation, especially when Coeytaux will be permanently restrained from filing these clawback lawsuits when the litigation concludes. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c).

C. The Public Interest Favors A Preliminary Injunction

The law of Texas, which applies in this diversity action,¹² requires the issuance of an antisuit injunction that restrains Coeytaux from suing the plaintiffs or their lawyers under California’s clawback regime. *See* Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c) (requiring courts to issue antisuit injunctions to restrain the enforcement of clawback regimes “upon request”); *see also* pp. 3–6, *supra*. Because the legislature has instructed courts to issue an antisuit injunction in these circumstances,

12. *See* note 4, *supra*.

the requested preliminary injunction is by definition in the public interest. *See Ber-man v. Parker*, 348 U.S. 26, 32 (1954) (“Subject to specific constitutional limitations, when the legislature has spoken, the public interest has been declared in terms well-nigh conclusive. In such cases the legislature, not the judiciary, is the main guardian of the public needs to be served by social legislation, whether it be Congress legislating concerning the District of Columbia . . . or the States legislating concerning local affairs.”).

A preliminary injunction will also serve the public interest by allowing the plaintiffs’ lawyer to zealously represent his clients without fearing that effective advocacy will jeopardize his (or his clients’) personal assets. Our judicial system depends on adversarial presentations in which lawyers vigorously argue and contest the legal and factual issues and hammer the weaknesses that they perceive in the other side’s position. California’s law is designed to subvert effective advocacy by allowing lawyers to be sued for three times the amount of any favorable judgment that they obtain on their client’s behalf—plus three times the amount of attorneys’ fees that the other side incurs in defending against their client’s claims. The public interest is never served when lawyers are discouraged from providing the zealous representation to which their clients are entitled.

Nor is the public interest served by state laws that threaten to subvert the judgments entered by a federal court. California’s regime goes beyond the effective nullification of federal-court judgments; it turns those judgments upside down. The net result under California’s law is that the federal-court *victor* winds up *paying* the defeated litigant twice the amount that the federal court ordered the defeated litigant to pay to him. The functional effect is to invert the federal court’s judgment and

create a state-law boomerang that hits the prevailing party with at least three times the force of his federal-court victory. The public interest is not served by a regime that leaves federal-court judgments at the mercy of state legislatures.

There is also no stopping point to the type of clawback regimes that state legislatures could enact. If this Court denies a preliminary injunction and allows California's clawback statute to thwart and deter litigants and lawyers from bringing meritorious claims in courts outside California, then anti-abortion states can authorize clawback lawsuits for protestors who get sued or prosecuted for violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act or other states' clinic-access laws. Other states could authorize clawback lawsuits by politically influential businesses or industries whenever they get sued in a state or federal court. Washington could authorize Microsoft or Amazon to bring clawback suits against anyone who sues them for antitrust violations. North Carolina could authorize clawback lawsuits by tobacco companies. New York could do the same for the banking and finance industry. The federal judicial power would be left at the mercy of individual state legislatures, each of which has its own set of powerful constituencies that would be delighted to receive the clawback prerogatives that California has given to abortion providers. The public interest does not favor a regime in which federal-court judgments are defeasible by state legislatures, or in which states create mechanisms that give their favored litigants de facto immunity from damages awards in the courts of other states.

III. If The Court Concludes That The Plaintiffs Have Failed To Satisfy The Four-Part Test For Preliminary Injunctive Relief, It Should Still Issue A Preliminary Injunction In Accordance With The Command Of Section 171A.151(c)

The law of Texas requires courts to issue, “on request,” a “temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunction that restrains” Coeytaux from suing the plaintiffs or those assisting them under California’s clawback statute:

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, in an action described by Subsection (a)(1) or (2), the court shall, on request, issue a temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunction that restrains each defendant in the action, each person in privity with the defendant, and each person with whom the defendant is in active concert or participation from:

(1) bringing an action under any clawback provision against a claimant or prosecutor, a person in privity with the claimant or prosecutor, or a person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the claimant or prosecutor; and

(2) continuing to litigate an action under any clawback provision that has been brought against a claimant or prosecutor, a person in privity with the claimant or prosecutor, or a person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the claimant or prosecutor.

Tex. Health & Safety Code § 171A.151(c). Texas law does not allow courts to consider or weigh the four prongs of the traditional preliminary-injunction test in these circumstances. Instead, it instructs courts to issue a preliminary antisuit injunction in response to a litigant’s “request.”

This presents an *Erie* question: Should a federal diversity court issue the preliminary injunction “on request,” as provided in section 171A.151(c)? Or should it apply or the four-part test that typically governs requests for preliminary injunctions in federal court? *See, e.g., Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008) (“A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish that he is likely

to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in the public interest.”). In other words, is the mandatory antisuit injunction described in section 171A.151(c) a “substantive” rule of decision that federal diversity courts must apply under the Rules of Decision Act,¹³ or is it a mere “procedural” requirement that federal diversity courts can safely ignore?

The Court need not resolve the *Erie* question if it concludes (as it should) that the plaintiffs have satisfied the four-part test that federal courts typically apply when issuing preliminary injunctions. *See* pp. 2–10, *supra*. The Court can simply assume for the sake of argument that the four-part test applies and then hold that the plaintiffs have satisfied it. But if the Court needs or wants to resolve whether the injunction-upon-request regime described in section 171A.151(c) applies in a federal diversity court, then it should hold that federal diversity courts must honor and enforce section 171A.151(c) as a substantive legal entitlement.

A. There Is No Federal Statute Or Rule Of Civil Procedure That Prevents Diversity Courts From Fully Enforcing The Requirements Of Section 171A.151(c)

The first question to ask when conducting an *Erie* inquiry is whether a federal statute or rule of civil procedure requires diversity courts to depart from the relevant state-law rule. *See Berk v. Choy*, 607 U.S. 187, 192 (2026) (“[T]he Rules of Decision Act dictates that state substantive law must yield if the Constitution, a treaty, or a statute ‘otherwise require[s] or provide[s].’” (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1652)); *id.* (“[A] valid Rule of Civil Procedure displaces contrary state law”); *Hanna v. Plumer*, 380 U.S. 460, 463–64 (1965). But there is no statute or rule of procedure that codifies (or

13. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1652.

purports to codify) the traditional four-part test for determining when a preliminary injunction should issue. Rule 65, which governs “injunctions and restraining orders,” has nothing to say on the standard that courts should apply when deciding whether to award preliminary relief. Rule 65 merely requires that courts: (1) provide notice to the adverse party before issuing a preliminary injunction;¹⁴ (2) require the movant to post appropriate security;¹⁵ and (3) state the reasons for issuing a preliminary injunction, state its terms specifically, and describe in reasonable detail the act or acts restrained or required.¹⁶ There is nothing in Rule 65 that establishes a test for determining when a preliminary injunction should issue, so there is nothing in Rule 65 (or any rule of civil procedure) that preempts or displaces section 171A.151(c)’s instruction to issue a preliminary antisuit injunction upon request.

B. The Mandatory Antisuit Injunction In Section 171A.151(c) Is A Substantive Rule Of Decision

Because the traditional four-part test for preliminary injunctions is a judge-created rule rather than a codified statutory command, the federal diversity courts must fully enforce section 171A.151(c) so long as it qualifies as a substantive rule of decision under 28 U.S.C. § 1652. A rule is substantive if it regulates “the *rights* themselves, the available *remedies*, or the *rules of decision*,” as opposed to merely “the process for enforcing those rights.” *Berk*, 607 U.S. at 199 (quoting *Shady Grove Orthopedic Associates, P. A. v. Allstate Insurance Co.*, 559 U.S. 393, 407–08 (2010) (plu-

14. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(a)(1) (“The court may issue a preliminary injunction only on notice to the adverse party.”).

15. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c).

16. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d)(1).

ality opinion) (emphasis added)). The mandatory anti-clawback preliminary injunction required under section 171A.151(c) is substantive because it establishes an “right” to a particular “remedy”—a preliminary antisuit injunction—and it provides a “rule of decision” for determining when that remedy must issue, *i.e.*, upon the request of a litigant. Statutorily guaranteed remedies of this sort will qualify as substantive under any formulation of the *Erie* test.¹⁷ The “process” for enforcing that right, by contrast, is described in Rule 65, which requires courts to provide notice, require appropriate security, and issue reasoned decisions when granting preliminary injunctions,¹⁸ but does not in any way dictate or purport to resolve the substantive standard that courts use in determining *whether* a preliminary injunction should issue.

Section 171A.151(c) also qualifies as substantive under the two-part test of *Hanna v. Plumer*, 380 U.S. 460 (1965), which requires courts to consider “the twin aims of the *Erie* rule: discouragement of forum-shopping and avoidance of inequitable administration of the laws.” *Id.* at 468. Allowing federal diversity courts to displace a state’s mandatory antisuit injunction regime will lead to forum-shopping, as plaintiffs will prefer the certainty of preliminary injunctive relief in state court over rolling the dice how a federal judge might apply the more discretionary *Winter* test.

17. See *Guaranty Trust Co. of New York v. York*, 326 U.S. 99, 109 (1945) (“[T]he intent of [*Erie*] was to insure that, in all cases where a federal court is exercising jurisdiction solely because of the diversity of citizenship of the parties, the outcome of the litigation in the federal court should be substantially the same, so far as legal rules determine the outcome of a litigation, as it would be if tried in a State court.”); *Hanna v. Plumer*, 380 U.S. 460, 467 (1965) (“The *Erie* rule is rooted in part in a realization that it would be unfair for the character of result of a litigation materially to differ because the suit had been brought in a federal court.”).

18. See notes 14–16 and accompanying text.

It will also lead to inequitable administration of the laws, as state-court plaintiffs will be given a substantial advantage over plaintiffs who sue in diversity. The former will get an immediate antisuit injunction whenever state law requires it, while the latter will obtain preliminary relief only if they meet the more demanding four-part test of *Winter*. The mandatory antisuit injunction of section 171A.151(c) is a substantive entitlement rather than a procedural rule, and it should be given full force and effect in a federal diversity court.

CONCLUSION

The motion for preliminary injunction should be granted.

Respectfully submitted.

/s/ Jonathan F. Mitchell

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL

Attorney-in-Charge

Texas Bar No. 24075463

S.D. Tex. Bar No. 1133287

Mitchell Law PLLC

111 Congress Avenue, Suite 400

Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 686-3940 (phone)

(512) 686-3941 (fax)

jonathan@mitchell.law

Dated: July 5, 2026

Counsel for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF WORD COUNT

I certify that this motion contains 4,198 words.

/s/ Jonathan F. Mitchell
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL
Counsel for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

I certify that I have conferred with Christopher M. Odell, counsel for the defendant, and we were unable to agree about the disposition of this motion.

/s/ Jonathan F. Mitchell
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL
Counsel for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on July 5, 2026, I served this document by e-mail upon:

CHRISTOPHER M. ODELL
LEAH SCHULTZ
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
700 Louisiana Street, Suite 4000
Houston, Texas 77002-2755
(713) 576-2400 (phone)
(713) 576-2499 (fax)
christopher.odell@arnoldporter.com
leah.schultz@arnoldporter.com

JENNA HUDSON
Center for Reproductive Rights
1600 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 628-0286 (phone)
jhudson@reprorights.org

/s/ Jonathan F. Mitchell
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL
Counsel for Plaintiff



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TITLE 2. HEALTH



SUBTITLE H. PUBLIC HEALTH PROVISIONS



CHAPTER 171A. ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 171A.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Abortion" has the meaning assigned by Section [245.002](#).
- (2) "Abortion-inducing drug" has the meaning assigned by Section [171.061](#).
- (3) "Delivery network company," "delivery person," "digital network," "digitally prearranged delivery," "digitally prearranged ride," "driver," and "transportation network company" have the meanings assigned by Section [2402.001](#), Occupations Code.
- (4) "Health care facility" has the meaning assigned by Section [108.002](#), except the term does not include a hospital.
- (5) "Health care provider" means an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by this state to diagnose, prevent, alleviate, or cure a human illness or injury. The term does not include a physician.
- (6) "Hospital" means:
 - (A) a hospital licensed under Chapter [241](#) or [577](#); or
 - (B) a hospital owned, maintained, or operated by this state.
- (7) "Medical emergency" means a condition described by Section

(8) "Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in this state, including a medical doctor and a doctor of osteopathic medicine.

(9) "Physician group" means an entity, including an entity described in the definition of "physician" under Section 74.001, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, that is formed by a physician or group of physicians to provide medical services.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.002. APPLICABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER. (a) This chapter does not apply to and a civil action under this chapter may not be brought against:

- (1) a hospital;
- (2) a health care facility licensed, owned, maintained, or operated by this state;
- (3) a health care provider, other than a provider against whom a qui tam action may be brought in accordance with Section 171A.101(d)(8);
- (4) a physician, other than a physician against whom a qui tam action may be brought in accordance with Section 171A.101(d)(8);
- (5) a physician group;
- (6) an Internet service provider or the provider's affiliates or subsidiaries;
- (7) an Internet search engine;
- (8) a cloud service provider solely providing access or connection to or from an Internet website or other information or content on the Internet or on a facility, system, or network that is not under the provider's control, including transmission, downloading, intermediate storage, access software, or other services; or
- (9) a person who manufactures, distributes, mails, transports, delivers, prescribes, provides, or possesses abortion-inducing drugs in this state solely for one or more of the following purposes:
 - (A) treating a medical emergency;
 - (B) removing an ectopic pregnancy;
 - (C) removing a dead, unborn child whose death was caused by spontaneous abortion; or

(D) a purpose that does not include performing, inducing, attempting, or assisting an abortion, other than an abortion performed in response to a medical emergency.

(b) This chapter may not be construed to require the actual performance, inducement, or attempted performance of an abortion in order for a person to bring a civil action authorized by this chapter.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

SUBCHAPTER B. PROTECTION FROM ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS

Sec. 171A.051. PROHIBITIONS RELATED TO ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or Section 171A.002, a person may not:

(1) manufacture or distribute an abortion-inducing drug in this state; or

(2) mail, transport, deliver, prescribe, or provide an abortion-inducing drug in any manner to or from any person or location in this state.

(b) Subsection (a) does not prohibit:

(1) speech or conduct protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, as made applicable to the states through the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, or protected by Section 8, Article I, Texas Constitution;

(2) conduct a pregnant woman takes in the course of aborting or attempting to abort the woman's unborn child;

(3) the manufacture, distribution, mailing, transport, delivery, prescribing, provision, or possession of an abortion-inducing drug solely for one or more of the purposes described by Section 171A.002(a)(9); or

(4) conduct a person takes under the direction of a federal agency, contractor, or employee to carry out a duty under federal law, if prohibiting that conduct would violate the doctrine of preemption or intergovernmental immunity.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

LAW. (a) This subchapter may be enforced only through a qui tam action brought under Subchapter C.

(b) No other direct or indirect enforcement of this subchapter may be taken or threatened by this state, a political subdivision of this state, a district or county attorney, or any officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision of this state against any person, by any means whatsoever, except as provided in Subchapter C.

(c) This section does not preclude or limit the enforcement of any other law or regulation against conduct that is independently prohibited by the other law or regulation and that would remain prohibited by the other law or regulation in the absence of this subchapter.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

SUBCHAPTER C. QUI TAM ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS

Sec. 171A.101. QUI TAM ACTION AUTHORIZED. (a) A person, other than this state, a political subdivision of this state, or an officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision of this state, has standing to bring and may bring a qui tam action against a person who:

- (1) violates Section 171A.051; or
- (2) intends to violate Section 171A.051.

(b) An action brought under this section must be brought in the name of the qui tam relator, who is an assignee of this state's claim for relief. Notwithstanding any other law, the transfer of this state's claim to the qui tam relator is absolute, with the state retaining no interest in the subject matter of the claim.

(c) A qui tam relator may not bring an action under this section if the action is preempted by 47 U.S.C. Section 230(c).

(d) A qui tam action may not be brought under this section:

- (1) against a woman for using, obtaining, or seeking to obtain abortion-inducing drugs to abort or attempt to abort her unborn child;
- (2) against a person acting under the direction of a federal agency, contractor, or employee who is carrying out a duty under federal law if the

imposition of liability would violate the doctrine of preemption or intergovernmental immunity;

(3) by any person who:

(A) impregnated a woman through conduct constituting sexual assault under Section 22.011, Penal Code, or aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021, Penal Code;

(B) committed an offense for which an affirmative finding of family violence was made under Article 42.013, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(C) provided an abortion-inducing drug to a pregnant woman for the purpose of performing, inducing, or attempting an abortion without the woman's consent or knowledge;

(D) has been convicted of an offense under Section 42.072, Penal Code; or

(E) acts in concert or participation with a person described by this subdivision;

(4) against a transportation network company or a driver for using a transportation network company's digital network to provide a digitally prearranged ride;

(5) against a delivery network company or a delivery person for using a delivery network company's digital network to provide a digitally prearranged delivery;

(6) against an air carrier conducting domestic or flag operations under 14 C.F.R. Part 121 or a foreign air carrier conducting scheduled operations under 14 C.F.R. Part 129;

(7) against a person to whom this chapter does not apply and against whom a civil action under this chapter may not be brought under Section 171A.002(a);

(8) against a health care provider or physician, unless the qui tam relator pleads and proves that the provider or physician engaged in conduct constituting a violation of Section 171A.051 while located outside this state; or

(9) against a pharmaceutical manufacturer, pharmaceutical distributor, or common carrier, unless the qui tam relator pleads and proves that the defendant failed to adopt and implement a policy to not distribute, mail, transport, deliver, provide, or possess abortion-inducing drugs other than for one or more of the purposes described by Section 171A.002(a)(9).

(e) Notwithstanding any other law, including rules of civil procedure adopted under Chapter 26, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, an action brought under this section may not be litigated on behalf of a claimant class or a

(f) In an action brought under this chapter, a qui tam relator or a defendant against whom an action is brought under this section may not, without the consent of the person to whom the information belongs, publicly disclose or improperly obtain:

(1) any personally identifiable information of a pregnant woman who sought or obtained an abortion-inducing drug from a defendant against whom a qui tam action is brought under this section, including any written, electronic, audio, or visual document or media that identifies the pregnant woman;

(2) any information protected from public disclosure under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-191) and regulations adopted under that Act; or

(3) any personal data of a pregnant woman who sought or obtained an abortion-inducing drug from a defendant against whom a qui tam action is brought under this section that is protected from public disclosure under federal or state law.

(g) Notwithstanding any other law, a court may not order in response to the filing of a petition by a qui tam relator the taking of a deposition under Rule 202, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, of a woman who is the subject of a violation of Section 171A.051 unless the woman consents to the deposition.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.102. DEFENSES. (a) It is an affirmative defense to an action brought under Section 171A.101 that the defendant:

(1) was unaware the defendant was engaged in the conduct prohibited by Section 171A.051; and

(2) took reasonable precautions to ensure the defendant would not violate Section 171A.051.

(b) It is an affirmative defense to an action brought under Section 171A.101 that:

(1) the imposition of civil liability on the defendant will violate the defendant's rights under federal law, including the United States Constitution;

(2) the defendant:

(A) has standing to assert the rights of a third party under

the tests for third-party standing established by the United States Supreme Court; and

(B) demonstrates that the imposition of civil liability on the defendant will violate the third party's rights under federal law, including the United States Constitution;

(3) the imposition of civil liability on the defendant will violate the defendant's rights under the Texas Constitution; or

(4) the imposition of civil liability on the defendant will violate limits on extraterritorial jurisdiction imposed by the United States Constitution or the Texas Constitution.

(c) The defendant has the burden of proving an affirmative defense under this section by a preponderance of the evidence.

(d) The following are not defenses to an action brought under Section 171A.101:

(1) a defendant's ignorance or mistake of law, including a defendant's mistaken belief that the requirements or provisions of this chapter are unconstitutional or were unconstitutional;

(2) a defendant's reliance on a state or federal court decision that is not binding on the court in which the action has been brought;

(3) a defendant's reliance on a federal agency rule or action that has been repealed, superseded, or declared invalid or unconstitutional, even if the federal agency rule or action had not been repealed, superseded, or declared invalid or unconstitutional when the cause of action accrued;

(4) the laws of another state or jurisdiction, including an abortion shield law, unless the Texas Constitution or federal law compels the court to enforce that law;

(5) non-mutual issue preclusion or non-mutual claim preclusion;

(6) sovereign immunity, governmental immunity, or official immunity, other than sovereign immunity, governmental immunity, or official immunity applicable to:

(A) a hospital owned, maintained, or operated by this state that facilitates the availability of or makes available abortion-inducing drugs solely for one or more of the purposes described by Section 171A.002(a)(9);

(B) a political subdivision of this state, including a hospital district, that facilitates the availability of or makes available abortion-inducing drugs solely for one or more of the purposes described by Section 171A.002(a)(9); or

(C) a physician or health care professional employed by a

hospital owned or operated by this state or a political subdivision of this state, including a hospital district, acting within the scope of the physician's or professional's employment who prescribes, distributes, administers, or otherwise makes available abortion-inducing drugs solely for one or more of the purposes described by Section 171A.002(a)(9);

(7) a claim that the enforcement of this chapter or the imposition of civil liability against the defendant will violate the constitutional or federally protected rights of third parties, except as provided by Subsection (b); or

(8) consent to the abortion by the claimant or the unborn child's mother.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.103. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS. A person may bring an action under Section 171A.101 not later than the sixth anniversary of the date the cause of action accrues.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.104. REMEDIES. (a) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by Subsection (b), if a qui tam relator prevails in an action brought under Section 171A.101, the court shall award to the relator:

(1) injunctive relief sufficient to prevent the defendant from violating Section 171A.051;

(2) an amount of not less than \$100,000 for each violation of Section 171A.051, to be allocated in accordance with Subsection (b); and

(3) costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

(b) In awarding the amount described by Subsection (a)(2), the court shall ensure that:

(1) the qui tam relator receives the entire amount awarded under Subsection (a)(2) for an action in which the relator is:

(A) a woman who was pregnant at the time the woman obtained or received an abortion-inducing drug that was manufactured, distributed, mailed, transported, delivered, prescribed, provided, or possessed in violation of Section 171A.051; or

(B) the father, sibling, or grandparent of the unborn child with which the woman described by Paragraph (A) was pregnant at the time the woman obtained or received the abortion-inducing drug; and

(2) for an action in which the qui tam relator is a person other than a person described by Subdivision (1):

(A) the relator receives \$10,000 of the total amount awarded under Subsection (a)(2); and

(B) the remainder of the amount awarded under Subsection (a)(2) is held in trust by the relator for the benefit of a charitable organization designated by the relator, except that the relator may not designate a charitable organization under this paragraph from which the relator or any of the relator's family members receives a salary, stipend, or any type of remuneration or financial benefit.

(c) A court may not award relief under Subsection (a)(2) or (3) in response to a violation of Section 171A.051 if the defendant demonstrates that:

(1) a court previously ordered the defendant to pay an amount under Subsection (a)(2) in another action for that particular violation; and

(2) the court order described by Subdivision (1) has not been vacated, reversed, or overturned.

(d) A court may not award costs or attorney's fees under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure or any other rule adopted by the supreme court under Section 22.004, Government Code, to a defendant against whom an action is brought under Section 171A.101.

(e) Subsection (d) does not preclude a court from:

(1) awarding sanctions under Chapter 10, Civil Practice and Remedies Code; or

(2) sanctioning a litigant or attorney for frivolous, malicious, or bad-faith conduct.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.105. COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT PROHIBITED. (a)

This state, a political subdivision of this state, or an officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision of this state may not:

(1) act in concert or participation with a qui tam relator bringing an action under Section 171A.101;

(2) establish or attempt to establish any type of agency or fiduciary relationship with a qui tam relator bringing an action under Section 171A.101;

(3) attempt to control or influence a person's decision to bring an action under Section 171A.101 or that person's conduct of the litigation; or

(4) intervene in an action brought under Section 171A.101.

(b) This section does not prohibit this state, a political subdivision of this state, or an officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision of this state from filing an amicus curiae brief in an action brought under Section 171A.101 if this state, the political subdivision, the officer, or the employee does not act in concert or participation with the qui tam relator.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.106. JURISDICTION; APPLICABILITY OF STATE LAW.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law, including Subchapter C, Chapter 17, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, the courts of this state have personal jurisdiction over a defendant sued under Section 171A.101 to the maximum extent permitted by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and the defendant may be served outside this state.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the law of this state applies to an action brought under Section 171A.101 to the maximum extent permitted by the Texas Constitution and federal law, including the United States Constitution.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, any contractual provision that requires or purports to require application of the laws of a different jurisdiction, or that requires or purports to require a qui tam action under Section 171A.101 to be litigated in a particular forum, is void based on this state's public policy and is not enforceable in any court.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, Chapter 27, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, does not apply to an action brought under Section 171A.101.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.107. APPEALS. The Fifteenth Court of Appeals has exclusive intermediate appellate jurisdiction over any appeal or original

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

Sec. 171A.108. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAW. Notwithstanding any other law, a court may not apply the law of another state or jurisdiction to any qui tam action brought under Section 171A.101 unless the Texas Constitution or federal law compels the court to apply that law.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.

SUBCHAPTER D. PROTECTION FROM CERTAIN COUNTERACTIONS

Sec. 171A.151. EFFECT OF CLAWBACK PROVISIONS. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "clawback provision" refers to any law of another state or jurisdiction that authorizes the bringing of a civil action against a person for:

- (1) bringing or engaging in an action authorized by this chapter, including Subsection (f);
 - (2) bringing or engaging in an action that alleges a violation of Section 171A.051;
 - (3) attempting, intending, or threatening to bring or engage in an action described by Subdivision (1) or (2); or
 - (4) providing legal representation or any type of assistance to a person who brings or engages in an action described by Subdivision (1) or (2).
- (b) Notwithstanding any other law and except as otherwise provided by federal law or the Texas Constitution, the laws of this state apply to:
- (1) conduct described by Subsection (a);
 - (2) an action brought against a person for engaging in conduct described by Subsection (a);
 - (3) an action brought under a clawback provision against a resident of this state; and
 - (4) an action brought under Subsection (f).
- (c) Notwithstanding any other law, in an action described by Subsection

(a)(1) or (2), the court shall, on request, issue a temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunction that restrains each defendant in the action, each person in privity with the defendant, and each person with whom the defendant is in active concert or participation from:

(1) bringing an action under any clawback provision against a claimant or prosecutor, a person in privity with the claimant or prosecutor, or a person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the claimant or prosecutor; and

(2) continuing to litigate an action under any clawback provision that has been brought against a claimant or prosecutor, a person in privity with the claimant or prosecutor, or a person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the claimant or prosecutor.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, the doctrines of res judicata and collateral estoppel preclude a defendant against whom a judgment is entered in an action described by Subsection (a)(1) or (2) and each person in privity with the defendant from litigating or relitigating any claim or issue under any clawback provision against a claimant, prosecutor, or person in privity with the claimant or prosecutor that was raised or could have been raised as a claim, cross-claim, counterclaim, or affirmative defense under the federal or this state's rules of civil procedure.

(e) Notwithstanding any other law, a court of this state may not enforce an out-of-state judgment obtained in an action brought under a clawback provision unless federal law or the Texas Constitution requires the court to enforce the judgment.

(f) Notwithstanding any other law, if an action is brought or judgment is entered against a person under a clawback provision based wholly or partly on the person's decision to engage in conduct described by Subsection (a), that person is entitled to injunctive relief and damages from any person who brought the action or obtained the judgment or who sought to enforce the judgment. Notwithstanding any other law, the relief described by this subsection must include:

(1) compensatory damages, including money damages in an amount equal to the judgment damages and costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees spent in defending the action;

(2) costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing an action under this subsection;

(3) additional amounts consisting of the greater of:

(A) twice the sum of the damages, costs, expenses, and fees

(B) \$100,000; and

(4) injunctive relief that restrains each person who brought the action under the clawback provision, each person in privity with the person, and each person acting in concert or participation with the person from:

(A) bringing further actions under any clawback provision against the person against whom the action was brought, each person in privity with the person, or any person providing legal representation or any type of assistance to the person;

(B) continuing to litigate any actions brought under a clawback provision against the persons described by Paragraph (A); and

(C) enforcing or attempting to enforce any judgment obtained in any actions brought under a clawback provision against the persons described by Paragraph (A).

(g) It is not a defense to an action brought under Subsection (f) that:

(1) the claimant failed to seek recovery under Subsection (f) in an action brought against the claimant under a clawback provision; or

(2) a court in a preceding action brought against the claimant declined to recognize or enforce Subsection (f) or held any provision of that subsection invalid, unconstitutional, or preempted by federal law, notwithstanding the doctrines of issue or claim preclusion.

(h) Notwithstanding any other law, Chapter 27, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, does not apply to an action brought under Subsection (f).

(i) The Fifteenth Court of Appeals has exclusive intermediate appellate jurisdiction over any appeal or original proceeding arising out of a civil action brought under Subsection (f) in the courts of this state.

Added by Acts 2025, 89th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 7), Sec. 2, eff. December 4, 2025.