

AN ACT relating to the safe disposal of hypodermic needles and medical waste.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The Department for Public Health, in consultation with the Energy and Environment Cabinet, shall establish guidelines for the proper disposal of hypodermic syringes, needles, and other sharps used for self-administration purposes that are consistent with the available guidelines regarding disposal for home health care products provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) In establishing guidelines pursuant to this section, the Department for Public Health shall promote flexible and convenient disposal methods appropriate to the area and level of services available to the person disposing of the hypodermic syringe, needle, or other sharp. The guidelines shall encourage the use of safe disposal programs that include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Drop box or supervised collection sites;

(b) Programs to allow hypodermic syringe, needle, or other sharps to be returned via mail;

(c) Syringe exchange programs, if operated in accordance with KRS 218A.500; and

(d) At-home needle destruction devices.

(3) The Department for Public Health shall develop educational materials regarding the safe disposal of hypodermic syringes, needles, and other sharps and distribute copies of these educational materials to pharmacies and the public and make these materials prominently available on its Web site. The educational materials shall include:

(a) Information regarding safer injection;

- (b) Hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus prevention;
  - (c) Proper methods for the disposal of hypodermic syringes, needles, and other sharps; and
  - (d) Contact information for obtaining treatment for drug abuse and addiction.
- (4) A sharps waste collection station may be located at any:
- (a) Hospital;
  - (b) Ambulatory surgical treatment center;
  - (c) Physician's office;
  - (d) Clinic, or other setting where a physician provides care;
  - (e) Pharmacy;
  - (f) Any government office where hypodermic, intravenous, or other medical needles or sharps are used or provided in the course of the official duties of the office.