

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023 - \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, \_\_\_\_\_, ESTABLISHING THE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY HEALTH FREEDOM ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, numerous County residents have expressed their concerns to the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) regarding the federal government’s and the World Health Organization’s attempts to impose public health mandates and limit the healthcare freedoms and rights of individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to address the concerns of \_\_\_\_\_ County residents by codifying certain protections of individual freedom of choice as it pertains to healthcare, and to guarantee the God-given right and obligation for individuals to preserve their bodily integrity in a manner consistent with the dictates of their conscience;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, \_\_\_\_\_:**

**SECTION ONE: Title**

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the “\_\_\_\_\_ County Health Freedom Ordinance”.

**SECTION TWO: Purpose and Intent**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to safeguard the healthcare rights and freedoms of \_\_\_\_\_ County residents.

**SECTION THREE: Applicability.**

This Ordinance is applicable and limited to \_\_\_\_\_ County.

**SECTION FOUR: COVID-19 vaccine documentation prohibited.**

(A) A business entity within \_\_\_\_\_ County may not require patrons or customers to provide any documentation certifying COVID-19 vaccination or post-infection recovery to gain access to, entry upon, or service from the business operations in \_\_\_\_\_ County. This subsection does not otherwise restrict businesses from instituting screening protocols consistent with authoritative or controlling government-issued guidance to protect public health.

(B) \_\_\_\_\_ County will not require anyone to provide any documentation certifying COVID-19 vaccination or post-infection recovery to gain access to, entry upon, or service from \_\_\_\_\_ County government buildings, operations, or services.

**SECTION FIVE: Private employer COVID-19 vaccination mandates prohibited.**

(A) A private employer within \_\_\_\_\_ County may not impose a COVID-19 vaccination mandate for any full-time, part-time, or contract employee without providing individual exemptions that allow an employee to opt out of such requirement on the basis of medical reasons, including, but not limited to, pregnancy or anticipated pregnancy; religious reasons; COVID-19 immunity; periodic testing; and the use of employer-provided personal protective equipment. For purposes of this section, the term “COVID-19” means the novel coronavirus identified as SARSCoV-2; any disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, its viral fragments, or a virus mutating therefrom; and all conditions associated with the disease which are caused by SARS-CoV-2, its viral fragments, or a virus mutating therefrom.

(B) If an employer fails to comply with subsection (A) and terminates an employee based on the employee’s noncompliance with a COVID-19 vaccination mandate, the terminated employee shall be eligible for reemployment in addition to any other remedy available to the employee at law.

**SECTION SIX: Vaccination mandates for \_\_\_\_\_ County employees.**

\_\_\_\_\_ County shall not impose any vaccination mandate for any \_\_\_\_\_ County employee.

**SECTION SEVEN: Mask Mandates and Quarantine**

\_\_\_\_\_ County shall not impose a mask mandate nor issue a quarantine order for either its employees or residents.

**SECTION EIGHT: Directives from the World Health Organization and Other International Bodies**

\_\_\_\_\_ County does not recognize any authority by the World Health Organization or any other international body to impose any health mandates or directives within \_\_\_\_\_ County.

**SECTION NINE: Penalties.**

Violations of this Ordinance shall be punishable as provided by law for the violation of County ordinances. In addition, violation of this Ordinance shall give rise to a private right of action for civil suit in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**SECTION TEN: Severability**

If any phrase or portion of the Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion.

**SECTION ELEVEN: Inclusion in the Code of Laws and Ordinances**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of Laws and Ordinances of \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_. The sections of the Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such, and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section,” “article,” or any other appropriate word.

**SECTION FIFTEEN: Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

ATTEST:  
\_\_\_\_\_, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Deputy Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman