



APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

General Instructions

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provides support for the appointment of Local Health Authorities in Texas and maintains the database of appointments. Other DSHS responsibilities include coordination of training activities and availability of reference tools to ensure Local Public Health Authorities understand the roles and responsibilities of their office to serve their local communities.

Appointment and Term

In accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 121.021, a Local Health Authority is a physician appointed to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the appointing body's jurisdiction. A health authority serves for a term of two years and may be appointed to successive terms.

Duties

Under Section 121.024, a health authority is a state officer when performing duties prescribed by state law. A health authority shall perform each duty that is (1) necessary to implement and enforce a law to protect the public health; or (2) prescribed by the board. Duties of a health authority include (1) establishing, maintaining, and enforcing quarantine in the health authority's jurisdiction; (2) aiding the board in relation to local quarantine, inspection, disease prevention and suppression, birth and death statistics, and general sanitation in the health authority's jurisdiction.

Required Forms

Each newly appointed Local Health Authority must have the [required forms](#) completed and filed immediately after appointment to office. The three forms include:

1. **Statement of Appointed/ Elected Officer.** This form is witnessed and simply states that there was no material, financial or other gain realized by the appointing the Local Health Authority.
2. **Oath of Office.** This is signed by the Local Health Authority and mailed to the Regional Medical Director for the respective Health Service Region of the Texas Department of State Health Services for filing.
3. **Certificate of Appointment.** This form validates the eligibility of the physician being appointed as Health Authority and the appointment process. The form must be signed by the appointing authority and forwarded to the Regional Medical Director for the respective Health Service Region of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Questions

If you have questions regarding the Local Health Authority appointment process or about completing the forms, please contact your [DSHS Health Service Region office](#) or the DSHS Division for Regional & Local Health Services office in Austin at (512) 458-7770.

See links below for contact information:

[Texas Department of State Health Services Health Service Region Offices.](#) This site includes the information to locate the Regional Medical Director for the appropriate Health Service Region, including addresses, telephone numbers, FAX numbers, and maps of the DSHS Health Service Region Offices.

[Map of DSHS Health Service Regions.](#) This page provides a map showing the regional boundaries.