

For public health activities: We may disclose PHI when we are required to collect information about disease or injury, or to report vital statistics to the public health authority.

For health oversight activities: We may disclose PHI to our central offices, the protection and advocacy agency, or another agency responsible for monitoring the health care system for such purposes as reporting or investigation of unusual incidents, to accrediting bodies, and monitoring the Medicaid program.

To avert threat to health or safety: In order to avoid serious threat to health or safety, we may disclose PHI as necessary to law enforcement or other persons who can reasonably prevent or lessen the threat of harm.

For specific government functions: We may disclose PHI of military personnel and veterans in certain situations, to correctional facilities in certain situations, to government benefit programs relating to eligibility and enrollment, and for national security reasons, such as protection of the President.

Uses and Disclosures of PHI from Alcohol and Other Drug Records Not Requiring Consent or Authorization

The law provides that we may use/disclose your PHI from alcohol and other drug records without consent or authorization in the following circumstances:

When required by law: We may disclose your PHI when a law requires that we report information about suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence, or relating to suspected criminal activity, or in response to a court order.

Relating to decedents: We may disclose PHI relating to an individual's death if state or federal law requires the information for collection of vital statistics or inquiry into cause of death.

To avert threat to health or safety: In order to avoid serious threat to health or safety, we may disclose PHI as necessary to law enforcement or other persons who can reasonably prevent or lessen the threat of harm.

Uses and Disclosures Requiring You to Have an Opportunity to Object

In the following situations, we may disclose a limited amount of your PHI, *if we inform you in advance and you do not object*, as long as the disclosure is not otherwise prohibited by law: **To family, friends, or others involved in your care-** We may share with these people, limited PHI [medication information, summary of diagnosis and prognosis, list of services and personnel available for assistance] or information directly related to their involvement in your care, or payment for your care. Limited PHI may be disclosed that identifies you as a patient in the facility and to disclose your location within the facility, and to report a general description of condition to individuals who inquire about you by name and to identify religious affiliation to members of the clergy,

Right to Receive This Notice

You have a right to receive a paper copy of this Notice and/or an electronic copy by email upon request

How to Complain About Our Privacy Practices

If you think we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your PHI, you may file a complaint with the person listed below. You also may file a written complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C., 20201 or call 1-877-696-6775. We will take no retaliatory action against you if you make such complaints.

If you have questions about this Notice or any complaints about our privacy practices, please contact:

David Steinberg

1411 Lincoln Way West

Mishawaka, IN 46544

Telephone: 574-259-5666 x266

Effective Date:

This Notice effective on April 14, 2003

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC.



NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY

Our Duty to Safeguard Your Protected Health Information

Individually identifiable information about your past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition, or payment for health care is considered "Protected Health Information" (PHI). We are required to extend certain protections to your PHI, and to give you this Notice about our privacy practices that explains how, when and why we may use or disclose your PHI. Except in specified circumstances, we must use or disclose only the minimum necessary PHI to accomplish the intended purpose of the use or disclosure.

We are required to follow the privacy practices described in this Notice though **we reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time.**

Your Rights Regarding Your Protected Health Information

You have the following rights relating to your protected health information:

To request restrictions on uses/disclosures: You have the right to ask that we limit how we use or disclose your PHI. We will consider your request, but are not legally bound to agree to the restriction. To the extent that we do agree to any restrictions on our use/disclosure of the PHI, we will put the agreement in writing and abide by it except in emergency situations. We cannot agree to limit uses/disclosures that are required by law.

To choose how we contact you: You have the right to ask that we send you information at an alternative address or by an alternative means. We must agree to your request as long as it is reasonably easy for us to do so.

To inspect and request a copy of your PHI: Unless your access to your records is restricted for clear and documented treatment reasons, you have a right to see your protected health information upon your written request. We will respond to your request within 30 days. If we deny access, we will give you written reasons for the denial and explain any right to have the denial reviewed. If you want copies of your PHI, a charge for copying may be imposed, depending on your circumstances. You have the right to choose what portions of your information you want copied and to have prior information on the cost of copying.

To request amendment to your PHI: If you believe that there is a mistake or missing information in our record of your PHI, you may request, in writing, that we correct or add to the record. We will respond within 60 days of receiving your request. We may deny the request if we determine that the PHI is: (1) correct and complete; (2) not created by us and/or part of our records, or; (3) not permitted to be disclosed. Any denial will state the reasons for denial and explain your rights to have the request and denial, along with any statement in response that you provide, appended to your PHI. If we approve the request for amendment, we will change the PHI and so inform you, and tell others that need to know about the change in PHI.

To find out what disclosures have been made: You have a right to get a list of when, to whom, for what purpose, and what

content of your PHI has been released (other than instances of disclosure for treatment, payment, and operations; to you, your family, or the facility directory; or pursuant to your written authorization). This list will not include any disclosures made for national security purposes, to law enforcement officials or correctional facilities, or disclosures made before April 2003. We will respond to your written request for such list within 60 days of receiving it. Your request can relate to disclosures going as far back as six years. There will be no charge for up to one such list each year. There may be a charge for more frequent requests.

How We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information

We use and disclose Personal Health Information for a variety of reasons. We have a limited right to use and/or disclose your PHI for purposes of treatment, payment, and for our health care operations. For uses beyond that, we must have your written authorization unless the law permits or requires us to make the use or disclosure without your authorization. If we disclose your PHI to an outside entity in order for that entity to perform a function on our behalf, we must have in place an agreement from the outside entity that it will extend the same degree of privacy protection to your information that we must apply to your PHI. However, the law provides that we are permitted to make some uses/disclosures without your consent or authorization. The following describes and offers examples of our potential uses/disclosures of your PHI.

Uses and Disclosures Relating to Treatment, Payment, or Health Care Operations.

Generally, we may use or disclose your PHI as follows:

For Treatment: We may disclose your PHI to therapists, doctors, nurses and other health care personnel who are involved in providing your health care. For example, your PHI will be shared among members of your treatment team. Your PHI may also be shared with outside entities performing ancillary services relating to your treatment, such as lab work or x-rays, or for consultation purposes, or community mental health agencies involved in the provision or coordination of your care.

To obtain payment: We may use/disclose your PHI in order to bill and collect payment for your health care services. For example, we contact your employer to verify employment status, and/or

release portions of your PHI to the Medicaid program, the FSSA central office and its member agencies, and/or a private insurer to get paid for services that we delivered to you. We may release information to the Office of the Attorney General for collection purposes.

For health care operations: We may use/disclose your PHI in the course of operating our agency or its programs. For example, we may take your photograph for identification purposes, use your PHI in evaluating the quality of services provided, or disclose your PHI to our accountant or attorney for audit purposes. Since we are an integrated system, we may disclose your PHI to designated staff in our other facilities, programs, our central office, or our support services for similar purposes. Release of your PHI to the state agencies might also be necessary to determine your eligibility for publicly funded services.

Appointment reminders: Unless you provide us with alternative instructions, we may send appointment re-minders and other similar materials to your home.

Uses and Disclosures of PHI Requiring Authorization

For uses and disclosures beyond treatment, payment and operations purposes we are required to have your written authorization, unless the use or disclosure falls within one of the exceptions described below. Authorizations can be revoked at any time to stop future uses/disclosures except to the extent that we have already undertaken an action upon your authorization.

Uses and Disclosures of PHI from Mental Health Records Not Requiring Consent or Authorization

The law provides that we may use/disclose your PHI from mental health records without consent or authorization in the following circumstances:

When required by law: We may disclose your PHI when a law requires that we report information about suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence, or relating to suspected criminal activity, or in response to a court order. We must also disclose PHI to authorities that monitor compliance with these privacy requirements.