



ANCHOR FAMILY SERVICES INC.
Individual Consent (Foster Parents)

Consent to the Use and Disclosure of Individually Identifiable Health Information for health care operations

I understand that as a part of my foster parent process, Anchor Family Services, Inc. receives, originates, maintains, discloses, and uses individually identifiable health information, including, but not limited to, health records and other health information describing my health history, symptoms, examination and test results, and diagnoses. I understand that Anchor Family Services, Inc. other contracted health care professionals, and staff may use this information to perform the following tasks:

- Evaluate ability to provide foster care
- Complete a home study
- Distribute the home study to TDFPS or other foster and/or adoption agencies
- Evaluate compliance with TDFPS Minimum Standards
- Conduct routine operations, such as quality assurance (the process of monitoring the necessity for, the appropriateness of, and the quality of care provided) and peer review (the process of monitoring the effectiveness of personnel)

I have been provided a Notice of Information Practices that fully explains the uses and disclosures that Anchor Family Services, Inc. will make with respect to my individually identifiable health information. I understand that I have the right to review the *Notice* before signing this consent. Anchor Family Services, Inc. has afforded me sufficient time to review this *Notice* and has answered any questions that I have to my satisfaction. I also understand that Anchor Family Services, Inc. cannot use or disclose my individually identifiable health information other than as specified on the *Notice*. I also understand, however, that Anchor Family Services, Inc. reserves the right to change its *Notice* and the practices detailed therein prospectively (for uses and disclosures occurring after the revision) if it sends a copy of the revised *Notice* to the address that I have provided.

I understand that I do not have to consent to the use or disclosure of my individually identifiable health information for payment and health care operations, but if I do not consent, Anchor Family Services, Inc. may refuse to provide me services unless applicable state or federal law requires Anchor Family Services, Inc. to provide such services or continue with the licensing process.

I understand that I have the right to request restrictions on the use or disclosure of my individually identifiable health information to carry out payment or health care operations. I further understand that Anchor Family Services, Inc. is not required to agree to the requested restriction, but if they do agree, they must honor the restriction unless I request they stop doing so or if Anchor Family Services, Inc. notifies me they are no longer going to honor the request.

I request the following restrictions on the use or disclosure of my individually identifiable health information:

I understand I have the right to request restriction on the method of the way information is communicated to me. For example, if I prefer information dropped up rather than emailed. I further understand that Anchor Family Services, Inc. must honor this request if the *method of communication* is reasonable. Anchor Family Services, Inc. may not ask me why I want the alternate method of communication.

I object to uses and disclosures as follows:

I understand I may revoke this consent in writing, but the revocation will not be effective to the extent that Anchor Family Services, Inc. has already taken action in reliance on my earlier effective consent.

Signature of Foster Parent

Date: _____

Signature of Foster Parent

Date: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS CONSENT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE DATE ANCHOR FAMILY SERVICES, INC. RECEIVES REVOCATION IN WRITING.

Below is the Notice of Information Practices for your review. Please review and let us know if you have any questions. After reviewing, please sign the above agreement and turn into Anchor Family Services, Inc. Please keep the Notice of Information Practices for your personal records.

**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES
FOR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**
[45 CFR 164.520]

Background

The HIPAA Privacy Rule gives individuals a fundamental new right to be informed of the privacy practices of their health plans and of most of their health care providers, as well as to be informed of their privacy rights with respect to their personal health information. Health plans and covered health care providers are required to develop and distribute a notice that provides a clear explanation of these rights and practices. The notice is intended to focus individuals on privacy issues and concerns, and to prompt them to have discussions with their health plans and health care providers and exercise their rights.

How the Rule Works

General Rule. The Privacy Rule provides that an individual has a right to adequate notice of how a covered entity may use and disclose protected health information about the individual, as well as his or her rights and the covered entity's obligations with respect to that information. Most covered entities must develop and provide individuals with this notice of their privacy practices.

The Privacy Rule does not require the following covered entities to develop a notice:

- Health care clearinghouses, if the only protected health information they create or receive is as a business associate of another covered entity. See 45 CFR 164.500(b)(1).
- A correctional institution that is a covered entity (e.g., that has a covered health care provider component).
- A group health plan that provides benefits only through one or more contracts of insurance with health insurance issuers or HMOs, and that does not create or receive protected health information other than summary health information or enrollment or disenrollment information.

See 45 CFR 164.520(a).

Content of the Notice. Covered entities are required to provide a notice in *plain language* that describes:

- How the covered entity may use and disclose protected health information about an individual.
- The individual's rights with respect to the information and how the individual may exercise these rights, including how the individual may complain to the covered entity.
- The covered entity's legal duties with respect to the information, including a statement that the covered entity is required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information.
- Whom individuals can contact for further information about the covered entity's privacy policies.

The notice must include an effective date. See 45 CFR 164.520(b) for the specific requirements for developing the content of the notice.

A covered entity is required to promptly revise and distribute its notice whenever it makes material changes to any of its privacy practices. See 45 CFR 164.520(b)(3), 164.520(c)(1)(i)(C) for health plans, and 164.520(c)(2)(iv) for covered health care providers with direct treatment relationships with individuals.

Providing the Notice.

- A covered entity must make its notice available to any person who asks for it.
- A covered entity must prominently post and make available its notice on any web site it maintains that provides information about its customer services or benefits.
- *Health Plans* must also:
 - ▶ Provide the notice to individuals then covered by the plan no later than April 14, 2003 (April 14, 2004, for small health plans) and to new enrollees at the time of enrollment.
 - ▶ Provide a revised notice to individuals then covered by the plan within 60 days of a material revision.
 - ▶ Notify individuals then covered by the plan of the availability of and how to obtain the notice at least once every three years.
- *Covered Direct Treatment Providers* must also:

- ▶ Provide the notice to the individual no later than the date of first service delivery (after the April 14, 2003 compliance date of the Privacy Rule) and, except in an emergency treatment situation, make a good faith effort to obtain the individual's written acknowledgment of receipt of the notice. If an acknowledgment cannot be obtained, the provider must document his or her efforts to obtain the acknowledgment and the reason why it was not obtained.
 - ▶ When first service delivery to an individual is provided over the Internet, through e-mail, or otherwise electronically, the provider must send an electronic notice automatically and contemporaneously in response to the individual's first request for service. The provider must make a good faith effort to obtain a return receipt or other transmission from the individual in response to receiving the notice.
 - ▶ In an emergency treatment situation, provide the notice as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so after the emergency situation has ended. In these situations, providers are not required to make a good faith effort to obtain a written acknowledgment from individuals.
 - ▶ Make the latest notice (i.e., the one that reflects any changes in privacy policies) available at the provider's office or facility for individuals to request to take with them, and post it in a clear and prominent location at the facility.
- A covered entity may e-mail the notice to an individual if the individual agrees to receive an electronic notice.

See 45 CFR 164.520(c) for the specific requirements for providing the notice.

Organizational Options.

- Any covered entity, including a hybrid entity or an affiliated covered entity, may choose to develop more than one notice, such as when an entity performs different types of covered functions (i.e., the functions that make it a health plan, a health care provider, or a health care clearinghouse) and there are variations in its privacy practices among these covered functions. Covered entities are encouraged to provide individuals with the most specific notice possible.
- Covered entities that participate in an organized health care arrangement may choose to produce a single, joint notice if certain requirements are met. For example, the joint notice must describe the covered entities and the service

delivery sites to which it applies. If any one of the participating covered entities provides the joint notice to an individual, the notice distribution requirement with respect to that individual is met for all of the covered entities. See 45 CFR 164.520(d).

Frequently Asked Questions

To see Privacy Rule FAQs, click the desired link below:

[FAQs on Notice of Privacy Practices](#)

[FAQs on ALL Privacy Rule Topics](#)

(You can also go to http://answers.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/hhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php, then select "Privacy of Health Information/HIPAA" from the Category drop down list and click the Search button.)