

FAX

To: _____

From: _____

Office: _____

DHS Unit: _____

Dept: _____

Phone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Fax #: _____

Phone #: _____

Tax ID #: _____

Date: _____



More about our request for “protected health information”

Keeping client records confidential has always been a priority for the Department of Human Services (DHS). Now that HIPAA privacy rules are in effect, the department is following those requirements as it exchanges medical information about clients.

Because DHS is involved in providing and paying for medical care for many of its clients, it often must request information from providers, insurance companies or other health-care entities. Much of that information falls under the HIPAA definition of being necessary for “treatment, payment or operations of health care business” (known as TPO). Under the law, this information can be released without authorization from the client.

DHS is aware that there are other, more stringent laws regarding certain types of records related to mental health, addiction, HIV and genetics. Our handling of this type of information conforms to the provisions of those stricter laws. We will not request or give out these kinds of records unless it is authorized by the client and is allowed by the specific state or federal laws.

The information we are requesting at this time falls within the scope of the TPO exemptions of HIPAA. We hope that you will respond to our request as soon as possible. If you would like more specific information about the TPO exemption, please contact me at the number above or the DHS Privacy Office at (503) 945-5780.