

Our Commitment to Your Privacy

The Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) understands the importance of keeping your personal and health information secure and private and will take appropriate steps to attempt to safeguard any medical or other personal information that is provided to us. JSSA is required by law to provide you with this notice. This notice informs you of your rights about the privacy of your medical information and how we may use and share that information.

The Privacy Rule under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") requires JSSA to: (i) maintain the privacy of medical information provided to us; (ii) provide notice of our legal duties and privacy practices; and (iii) abide by the terms of our Notice of Privacy Practices currently in effect.

Who Will Follow This Notice

This notice describes the practices of JSSA employees, staff, consulting psychologists, psychiatrists, students, interns and other direct care givers as well as volunteers, who may be providing office, home based or community service on behalf of JSSA. These individuals may share medical information with each other for treatment, payment and health care operation purposes described in this notice.

What Types of Information Do We Collect

In the ordinary course of receiving treatment and health care services from JSSA, you will be providing us with personal information such as:

- Your name, address, phone number, social security number and date of birth
- Information relating to your medical history and/or family medical history
- Your insurance information and coverage
- Information concerning your doctor, nurse or other medical providers
- Employment information

In addition, we will gather certain medical information about you and will create a record of the care provided to you. Some information also may be provided to JSSA by other individuals or organizations that are part of your "circle of care" – such as the referring physician, other doctors, your health plan, and close friends or family members.

How Do We Protect the Privacy of Your Personal Information?

Keeping your information safe is one of our most important duties. We limit access to your personal information to those who need it. We maintain appropriate safeguards to protect it. For example, we protect access to our buildings and computer systems. Our Privacy Officer also assures the training of our staff on our privacy and security policies.

Individual Rights

You have the right to ask for restrictions on the ways we use and disclose your health information for treatment, payment and health care operation purposes. You may also request that we limit our disclosures to persons assisting in your care or payment for your care. JSSA will consider your request, but we are not required, to accept it.

You have the right to request that you receive communications containing your protected health information from us by alternative means or at alternative locations. For example, you may ask that we only contact you at home or by mail.

Except under certain circumstances, you have the right to inspect and copy medical, billing and other records used to make decisions about you. If you ask for copies of this information, we may charge you a fee for copying and mailing.

If you believe that information in your record is incorrect or incomplete, you have the right to ask us to correct the existing information or add missing information. Under certain circumstances, we may deny your request, such as when the information is accurate and complete.

You have a right to receive a list of certain instances when we have used or disclosed your medical information. We are not required to include in the list uses and disclosures for treatment, payment for services furnished to you, or health care operations; disclosures to you; disclosures you give us authorization to make; and, uses and disclosures before April 14, 2003, among others. If you ask for this information from us more than once every twelve months, we may charge you a fee.

You have the right to a copy of this notice in paper form. You may ask us for a copy at any time. You may also obtain a copy of this form at our web site (www.jssa.org).

To exercise any of your rights, please contact us in writing at Jewish Social Service Agency, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville, MD 20850, Attn: Privacy Officer. When making a request for amendment, you must state a reason for making the request.

Changes To This Notice

JSSA reserves the right to make changes to this notice at any time. We reserve the right to make the revised notice effective for personal health information we have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. In the event there is a material change to this notice, the revised notice will be posted. In addition, you may request a copy of the revised notice at any time.

Complaints/Comments

If you have any complaints concerning our privacy practices, you may contact the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201 (e-mail: ocrmail@hhs.gov). You also may contact us at Jewish Social Service Agency, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville, MD, 20850, Attn: Privacy Officer, 301-838-4200.

YOU WILL NOT BE RETALIATED AGAINST OR PENALIZED BY US FOR FILING A COMPLAINT.

To obtain more information concerning this notice, you may contact our Privacy Officer at the Jewish Social Service Agency, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-838-4200.

JSSA Notice of Privacy Practices

For the best in child, family and aging services...
Think JSSA



This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

Please review carefully.

Jewish Social Service Agency
301-838-4200
www.jssa.org

How JSSA May Use and Share Your Information for Payment, Treatment and Health Care Operations

JSSA may use and disclose personal and identifiable health information about you for a variety of purposes. All of the types of uses and disclosures of information are described below, but not every use or disclosure in a category is listed.

· **Required Disclosures:** JSSA is required to disclose health information about you to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, upon request, to determine our compliance with HIPAA and to you, in accordance with your right to access and right to receive an accounting of disclosures, as described below.

· **Treatment:** JSSA may use and share your personal information with health care providers for coordination and management of your care. Providers include: physicians, hospitals and other caregivers who provide services to you. For example, we may discuss your medications or test results with your physician. For mental health (psychotherapy) services only, JSSA will obtain your written consent and/or authorization as specified in Maryland, DC or Virginia State laws to disclose your personal health information for treatment.

· **Payment:** JSSA may use and disclose health information about you to bill for our services and to collect payment from you or your insurance company. For example, we may need to give a payor information about your current medical condition so that it will pay us for services that we have furnished you. We may also need to inform your payer of the prescribed treatment that you are going to receive in order to obtain prior approval or to determine whether the service is covered.

· **Health Care Operations:** JSSA may use and disclose information about you for the general operation of our business. For example, we sometimes arrange for accreditation organizations, auditors or other consultants to review our facilities, evaluate our operations, and tell us how to improve our services. We may use and disclose your health information to review the quality of services provided to you.

· **Public Policy Uses and Disclosures:** There are a number of public policy reasons why JSSA may disclose information about you, which are described below.

JSSA may disclose health information about you when we are required to do so by federal, state, or local law.

JSSA may disclose protected health information about you in connection with certain public health reporting activities. For instance, we may disclose such information to a public health authority (or an official of a foreign government agency that is acting in collaboration with a public health authority) that is authorized to collect or receive protected health information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability. Public health authorities include state health departments, the Center for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, to name a few. We also may disclose an individual's health information to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease. Finally, we may release health information to an employer who has asked us to evaluate

you in connection with medical surveillance of its workplace or whether you have a work-related illness or injury.

We may disclose protected health information to a person subject to the Food and Drug Administration's power for the following activities:

to report adverse events, product defects or problems, or biological product deviations; to track products; to enable product recalls; repairs or replacements; or to conduct post marketing surveillance.

JSSA is also permitted to disclose protected health information to a public health authority or other government authority authorized by law to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. We also may disclose protected health information where we reasonably believe an adult patient/client is a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence and the individual authorizes the disclosure or it is required or authorized by law.

JSSA may disclose health information about you in connection with certain health oversight activities of licensing and other health oversight agencies which are authorized by law. Health oversight activities include audit, investigation, inspection, licensure or disciplinary actions, and civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings or actions or any other activity necessary for the oversight of 1) the health care system, 2) governmental benefit programs for which health information is relevant to determining beneficiary eligibility, 3) entities subject to governmental regulatory programs for which health information is necessary for determining compliance with program standards, or 4) entities subject to civil rights laws for which health information is necessary for determining compliance.

JSSA may disclose your health information as required by law, including in response to a warrant, subpoena, or other order of a court or administrative hearing body, or to assist law enforcement to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person. Disclosures for law enforcement purposes also permit us to make disclosures about victims of crimes and the death of an individual, among others.

JSSA may disclose your protected health information for legal or administrative proceedings that involve you. We may release such information upon order of a court or administrative tribunal. We may also release protected health information in the absence of such an order and in response to a discovery or other lawful request, if efforts have been made to notify you or secure a protective order.

If you are an inmate, we may release protected health information about you to a correctional institution where you are incarcerated or to law enforcement officials in certain situations such as where the information is necessary for your treatment, health or safety, or the health and safety of others.

JSSA may release a patient's health information (1) to a coroner or medical examiner to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death and (2) to funeral directors. We also may release personal health information to organ procurement organizations, transplant centers, and eye or tissue banks, if you are an organ donor.

JSSA may release your health information to workers' compensation or similar programs, which provides benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses without regard to fault.

Health information about you may be disclosed when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of others.

If you are a member of the Armed Forces, we may release health information about you for activities deemed necessary by military command authorities. We also may release personal health information about foreign military personnel to their appropriate foreign military authority.

Finally, JSSA may disclose protected health information for national security and intelligence activities and for the provision of protective services to the President of the United States and other officials or foreign heads of state.

· **Business Associates:** JSSA sometimes works with outside individuals and businesses who help us operate our business successfully. We may disclose your health information to these business associates so that they can perform the tasks that we hire them to do. Our business associates must promise that they will respect the confidentiality of your personal and identifiable health information.

· **Disclosures to Persons Assisting in Your Care or Payment for Your Care:** JSSA may disclose information to individuals involved in your care or in the payment for your care. This includes people and organizations that are part of your "circle of care" – such as your spouse, your doctors, or an aide who may be providing services to you. We may also use and disclose health information about a patient/client for disaster relief efforts and to notify persons responsible for a patient's/client's care about a patient's/client's location, general condition or death. Generally, we will obtain your verbal agreement before using or disclosing health information in this way. However, under certain circumstances, such as in an emergency situation, we may make these uses and disclosures without your agreement.

· **Appointment Reminders:** JSSA may use and disclose medical information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment or that you should schedule an appointment.

· **Treatment Alternatives:** JSSA may use and disclose your personal health information in order to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options, alternatives or health-related services that may be of interest to you.

· **Fundraising:** JSSA may use your protected health information to contact you in an effort to raise funds for our operations.

Other Uses and Disclosures of Personal Information

JSSA is required to obtain written authorization from you for any other uses and disclosures of individually identifiable medical information other than those described above. If you provide us with such permission, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, JSSA will no longer use or disclose personal information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization, except to the extent we have already relied on your permission.