



HIPAA Privacy Notice

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

JCFS Chicago ("JCFS") has always highly valued and respected the privacy of the consumers that receive our services. JCFS complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") and its rules, as well as the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH Act") and the HITECH Act Final Rule of 2013 which amended HIPAA.

Due to changes in Federal Regulations and our desire to continue our commitment to your privacy, we are providing you with this Notice of Privacy Practices ("Notice") regarding your privacy of health information. JCFS is required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information ("PHI") and to provide you with a notice of its legal duties and privacy practices. State and federal laws require JCFS to: maintain the privacy of your health information in keeping with HIPAA; provide you with this Notice about our legal duties and privacy practices and your legal rights pertaining to health information we collect and maintain about you; notify you following a breach of unsecured protected health information; follow the privacy practices described in this Notice while it is in effect; notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction pertaining to your health information; and accommodate reasonable requests you may have to communicate health information by alternative means or at alternative locations.

WHO WILL FOLLOW THIS NOTICE

This notice describes JCFS practices and that of:

- All JCFS employees, staff, interns, and other professionals
- JCFS departments and programs providing health care or therapy
- Any volunteer who works with you while you are a client of JCFS
- Business Associates and Consultants

OUR PLEDGE REGARDING PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

We understand that PHI about you is personal. We are committed to protecting information about you. We create a record of the services that you receive at JCFS. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This Notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose information about you. We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosures of information.

JCFS will, to the best of its ability, work to mitigate the negative effects of any disclosure it makes.



JCFS will abide by the terms of the Notice currently in effect. JCFS reserves the right to change the terms of its Notice and to make the new Notice provisions effective for all PHI we maintain. If we change this Notice, the revised Notice will be posted in our facilities, offices, and on our website (www.jcfs.org), or a copy of the revised Notice will be sent to you.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose information without your written consent. For each category of uses or disclosures we will explain what we mean and try to give some examples. We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, to obtain payment, for healthcare operations, and for other purposes. For example:

- **For Treatment:** We may use PHI about you to provide you with mental health treatment or services. Additionally, we may use information about you to develop an effective treatment plan, for purposes of assessment and to enhance all services rendered. We may disclose this information to the persons involved in providing service at JCFS, which may include consultants, respite workers, clinicians, childcare workers, interns, supervisors, administrators, foster parents, volunteers, nurses or other JCFS personnel who are involved in providing services to you during your involvement with JCFS.

We may ask you for authorization to disclose information about you to people outside of JCFS who are involved in your treatment, such as, medical professionals. For example, a clinician treating a client for depression may need to know if the client is in need of or currently taking medication. Therefore, the clinician will need to share information with the client's doctor (psychiatrist) in order to coordinate treatment.

- **For Payment** We may use and disclose PHI about you so that the treatment and services that you receive at JCFS maybe billed and collected from you, an insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, or a third party. For example, we may need to disclose your PHI about treatment that you received at JCFS to your health plan so they can pay us or reimburse you for the treatment.

- **For Quality Assurance and Utilization Review:** We may use and disclose PHI about you for our health care operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run JCFS and ensure that all of our clients receive quality care. For example, we may use PHI to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in treating you. We may also combine PHI about many JCFS clients to determine what additional services JCFS should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new services are effective. Information used in this way is de-identified in order to protect your privacy. We may also disclose information to clinicians, interns, and other JCFS personnel for review and learning purposes.

For those clients participating in Managed Care, JCFS participates with other behavioral health services agencies in an Independent Practice Association Network, established by the Illinois Health Practice Alliance. Together, the Participating Covered Entities in the Network have



formed one or more organized health care systems in which the Participating Covered Entities share Protected Health Information to measure quality assurance and/or to share financial risk for the delivery of health care services with other Participating Covered Entities. By sharing such Protected Health Information for these purposes, the Network can participate in an Organized Health Care Arrangement (“OHCA”), as HIPAA defines that term. As OHCA participants, all Participating Covered Entities may share the PHI of their patients for the Health Care Operations purposes of the OHCA.

For clients in a Medicaid Managed Care Organization, we may disclose critical incident information such as abuse/neglect/preventing a serious threat to self or another person to the Medicaid Managed Care when federally required.

- **Treatment Options:** We may use and disclose PHI to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.
- **Fundraising Activities:** We may use your demographic information (but nothing that identifies you) to contact you in an effort to raise funds for the organization. You have a right to opt out of receiving fundraising communications. If you choose not to receive these fundraising communications, we must provide you with a clear and conspicuous opportunity to elect not to receive any further fundraising communications and we may not condition treatment or payment on your choice with respect to the receipt of fundraising communications. We may not make fundraising communications to you if you have elected to opt out of receiving these communications, but we may provide you with a method to opt back in to receive these communications. We would release information about you and services you received at JCFS only with your permission. We may use and disclose your PHI to the media only with your authorization.
- **Research:** Under certain circumstances (e.g., only with your express authorization or in a format that preserves your anonymity), we may use and disclose PHI about you for research purposes. Some research projects are subject to a special approval process. This process evaluates a proposed research project and its use of information, trying to balance the research needs with patients’ need for privacy of their PHI. Before we use or disclose PHI for research, we may have the research project approved through an Institutional Review Board.
- **As Required By Law:**
We will disclose PHI about you when required to do so by federal, state, or local law.
- **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** We may use and disclose PHI about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to you or another person. Any disclosure would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.
- **Workers’ Compensation:** In situations when worker’s compensation pays for services or treatment, we may release PHI about you for workers’ compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.



- **Public Health Risks:** We may disclose PHI about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:
 - To prevent or control disease, injury, or disability
 - To report child abuse or neglect
 - To notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition
 - To notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a client has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required by law.

- **Health Oversight Activities:** We may disclose PHI to a health oversight organization for activities required to maintain JCFS licensure and certification. These activities include, but are not limited to audits, site visits, and inspections. These activities are necessary to monitor JCFS performance and compliance with civil rights laws and child welfare requirements.

- **Lawsuits and Disputes:** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose PHI about you in response to a valid subpoena, or a court or administrative order. We may also disclose PHI about you in response to an order by a court, but only if good faith efforts have been made to notify you of the request and you do not object with the court or administrative agency that issued the subpoena or order, and you provide us with a copy of the objection that you file before we must produce the requested PHI. Then we will not produce the requested PHI until the court or administrative agency has issued an order deciding your objection.

- **Law Enforcement:** We may release PHI if required to do so by law:
 - In response to a court order
 - In response to laws that may require that we disclose information, for example, in a case where child abuse is indicated
 - In response to a governmental agency request, for example, if you make a complaint against us.

- **Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors:** We may release PHI to a medical examiner or funeral director. This may be necessary to allow a medical examiner or funeral director to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death, as necessary, to expedite necessary arrangements.

- **National Security and Intelligence Activities:** We may release PHI about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities that are required by law.

- **To Individuals Involved In Your Care or Payment For Your Care:**
During times of treatment, we disclose your PHI only to you, a family member, personal representative, or another person responsible for your care. We may use or disclose your PHI to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative, or another person responsible for your care, regarding your location and general condition.



- **To Provide You Notice of Breaches of Unsecured PHI:**

We may contact you to provide you with any notice of any breach of your unsecured PHI.

OTHER USES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Other uses and disclosures of PHI not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to JCFS will be made only with your written permission. For example, a specific authorization will be required for use or disclosure of your PHI (1) if it involves certain psychotherapy notes, (2) for marketing (except if the communication is face-to-face, or is for a promotional gift of nominal value) or for any marketing that involves financial remuneration; or (3) for any sale of your PHI. In these situations, you may withdraw your authorization at any time and must do so in writing to JCFS. Your withdrawal may not be effective in certain situations where we have already taken action in reliance on your authorization.

If you provide JCFS with permission to use or disclose PHI about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, JCFS will no longer use or disclose PHI about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that JCFS is unable to take back any disclosures that have already been made with your permission, and that JCFS is required to retain records of the treatment that has been provided to you.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

- **Right to Inspect and Copy:** You have the right to inspect and copy PHI that may be used to make decisions about your treatment. This includes billing and case records, but does not include clinicians' personal notes. To inspect and copy PHI, you must submit your request in writing to your primary clinician. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee in keeping with applicable statutes for costs incurred for copying, mailing, or other work associated with your request. You also have a right to receive an electronic copy of your records, if available.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy PHI in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to PHI, you may request that the denial be reviewed. Another professional chosen by JCFS will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

- **Right to Amend:** If you feel that PHI we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask for the information to be amended. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for JCFS. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to your primary clinician or the program supervisor. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request.



JCFS may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, JCFS may deny your request if you ask for information to be amended that:

- Was not created by JCFS
- Is not part of the case record information kept by JCFS
- Is not part of the information you would be permitted to inspect or copy
- Is already accurate and complete

- **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures:**

You have the right to request an “accounting of disclosures.” This is a list of the disclosures JCFS made of PHI about you. To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to your primary clinician or the program supervisor. The time period of your request may not be longer than six years. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (electronically or paper copy). The first list requested within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, JCFS may charge you for the costs of providing the list. JCFS will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.

- **Right to Request Restrictions:**

You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the PHI JCFS uses or discloses about you for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations. *JCFS is not required to agree to your request.* If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency services.

If you request, we must agree to restrict disclosures to health plans if you pay out of pocket in full for any service we provide.

To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to your primary clinician or the program supervisor. In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit JCFS’s use, disclosure or both; (3) to whom you want the limits to apply.

- **Right to Request Confidential Communications:**

You have the right to request that JCFS communicates with you about treatment matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we can contact you at work or by mail.

To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing to your primary clinician. JCFS will not ask you the reason for your request. JCFS will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

- **Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice:**

You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask JCFS to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are



still entitled to a paper copy of this notice. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, you may contact the Privacy Officer listed below, your primary clinician, or the program supervisor. You may also obtain a copy of this notice at our website, www.jcfs.org.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

JCFS reserves the right to change this Notice. JCFS reserves the right to make the revised or changed Notice effective for PHI that JCFS already has about you, as well as any information JCFS receives in the future. JCFS will post a copy of the current notice in all JCFS sites with the effective date noted on the last page.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with JCFS or with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS"). All complaints must be submitted in writing. To file a complaint with JCFS, contact the Privacy Officer at:

Sandee Crasko
JCFS Chicago
255 Revere Drive, Suite 200
847.412.4322

You also may file a complaint with DHHS, Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/index.html.

We support your right to protect the privacy of your medical information. You will not face any retaliation if you file a complaint.

If you request additional information regarding our Notice please contact our Privacy Officer at 773.698.9433

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