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**HOUSE BILL NO. 576****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice  
on March 3, 2008)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Delegates Watts and Toscano [HB 1324])

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-337, 19.2-169.6, and 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2 a section numbered 37.2-804.2, relating to the sharing of mental health records.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 16.1-337, 19.2-169.6, and 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2 a section numbered 37.2-804.2 as follows:**

§ 16.1-337. Inpatient treatment of minors; general applicability.

A. A minor may be admitted to a mental health facility for inpatient treatment only pursuant to §§ 16.1-338, 16.1-339, or § 16.1-340 or in accordance with an order of involuntary commitment entered pursuant to §§ 16.1-341 through 16.1-345. The provisions of Article 12 (§ 16.1-299 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of this title relating to the confidentiality of files, papers, and records shall apply to proceedings under §§ 16.1-339 through 16.1-345.

B. Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider rendering services to a minor who is the subject of proceedings under this article shall disclose to a magistrate, the juvenile intake officer, the court, the minor's attorney as required in § 16.1-343, the minor's guardian ad litem, the evaluator as required under § 16.1-338, 16.1-339, and 16.1-342, the community services board or behavioral health authority performing the evaluation, preadmission screening, or monitoring duties under this article, or a law-enforcement officer any and all information that is necessary and appropriate to enable each of them to perform his duties under this article. These health care providers and other service providers shall disclose to one another health records and information where necessary to provide care and treatment to the person and to monitor that care and treatment. Health records disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall be limited to information necessary to protect the officer, the minor, or the public from physical injury or to address the health care needs of the minor. Information disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall not be used for any other purpose, disclosed to others, or retained.

Any health care provider disclosing records pursuant to this section shall be immune from civil liability for any harm resulting from the disclosure, including any liability under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, unless the person or provider disclosing such records intended the harm or acted in bad faith.

§ 19.2-169.6. Emergency treatment prior to trial.

A. Any defendant who is not subject to the provisions of § 19.2-169.2 may be hospitalized for psychiatric treatment prior to trial if:

1. The court with jurisdiction over the defendant's case finds clear and convincing evidence that the defendant (i) is being properly detained in jail prior to trial; (ii) has mental illness and is imminently dangerous to himself or others in the opinion of a qualified mental health professional; and (iii) requires treatment in a hospital rather than the jail in the opinion of a qualified mental health professional; or

2. The person having custody over a defendant who is awaiting trial has reasonable cause to believe that (i) the defendant has mental illness and is imminently dangerous to himself or others and (ii) requires treatment in a hospital rather than jail and the person having such custody arranges for an evaluation of the defendant by a person skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness provided a district court judge or a special justice, as defined in § 37.2-100 or, if a judge or special justice is not available, a magistrate, upon the advice of a person skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, subsequently issues a temporary detention order for treatment in accordance with the procedures specified in §§ 37.2-809 through 37.2-813. In no event shall the defendant have the right to make application for voluntary admission and treatment as may be otherwise provided in § 37.2-805 or 37.2-814.

If the defendant is committed pursuant to subdivision 1 of this subsection, the attorney for the defendant shall be notified that the court is considering hospitalizing the defendant for psychiatric treatment and shall have the opportunity to challenge the findings of the qualified mental health professional. If the defendant is detained pursuant to subdivision 2 of this subsection, the court having jurisdiction over the defendant's case and the attorney for the defendant shall be given notice prior to the detention pursuant to a temporary detention order or as soon thereafter as is reasonable. Upon detention pursuant to subdivision 2 of this subsection, a hearing shall be held, upon notice to the attorney for the

60 defendant, either (i) before the court having jurisdiction over the defendant's case or (ii) before a district  
61 court judge or a special justice, as defined in § 37.2-100, in accordance with the provisions of  
62 § 37.2-820, in which case the defendant shall be represented by counsel as specified in § 37.2-814; the  
63 hearing shall be held within 48 hours of execution of the temporary order to allow the court that hears  
64 the case to make the findings, based upon clear and convincing evidence, that are specified in  
65 subdivision 1 of this subsection. If the 48-hour period herein specified terminates on a Saturday, Sunday,  
66 or legal holiday, the person may be detained for the same period allowed for detention pursuant to a  
67 temporary detention order issued pursuant to §§ 37.2-809 through 37.2-813.

68 In any case in which the defendant is hospitalized pursuant to this section, the court having  
69 jurisdiction over the defendant's case may provide by order that the admitting hospital evaluate the  
70 defendant's competency to stand trial and his mental state at the time of the offense pursuant to  
71 §§ 19.2-169.1 and 19.2-169.5.

72 B. A defendant subject to this section shall be treated at a hospital designated by the Commissioner  
73 as appropriate for treatment and evaluation of persons under criminal charge. The director of the hospital  
74 shall, within 30 days of the defendant's admission, send a report to the court with jurisdiction over the  
75 defendant addressing the defendant's continued need for treatment for a mental illness and being  
76 imminently dangerous to himself or others and, if so ordered by the court, the defendant's competency  
77 to stand trial, pursuant to subsection D of § 19.2-169.1, and his mental state at the time of the offense,  
78 pursuant to subsection D of § 19.2-169.5. Based on this report, the court shall (i) find the defendant  
79 incompetent to stand trial pursuant to subsection E of § 19.2-169.1 and proceed accordingly, (ii) order  
80 that the defendant be discharged from custody pending trial, (iii) order that the defendant be returned to  
81 jail pending trial, or (iv) make other appropriate disposition, including dismissal of charges and release  
82 of the defendant.

83 C. A defendant may not be hospitalized longer than 30 days under this section unless the court  
84 which has criminal jurisdiction over him or a district court judge or a special justice, as defined in  
85 § 37.2-100, holds a hearing at which the defendant shall be represented by an attorney and finds clear  
86 and convincing evidence that the defendant continues to (i) have a mental illness, (ii) be imminently  
87 dangerous to himself or others, and (iii) be in need of psychiatric treatment in a hospital. Hospitalization  
88 may be extended in this manner for periods of 60 days, but in no event may such hospitalization be  
89 continued beyond trial, nor shall such hospitalization act to delay trial, so long as the defendant remains  
90 competent to stand trial.

91 D. Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider rendering services to a  
92 defendant who is the subject of a proceeding under this section, § 19.2-176, or § 19.2-177.1 shall  
93 disclose to a magistrate, the court, the defendant's attorney, the defendant's guardian ad litem, the  
94 qualified mental health professional, the community service board or behavioral health authority  
95 performing the evaluation, preadmission screening, or monitoring duties under these sections, or the  
96 sheriff or administrator of the jail any and all information that is necessary and appropriate to enable  
97 each of them to perform his duties under these sections. These health care providers and other service  
98 providers shall disclose to one another health records and information where necessary to provide care  
99 and treatment to the defendant and to monitor that care and treatment. Health records disclosed to a  
100 sheriff or administrator of the jail shall be limited to information necessary to protect the sheriff or  
101 administrator of the jail and his employees, the defendant, or the public from physical injury or to  
102 address the health care needs of the defendant. Information disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall  
103 not be used for any other purpose, disclosed to others, or retained.

104 Any health care provider disclosing records pursuant to this section shall be immune from civil  
105 liability for any harm resulting from the disclosure, including any liability under the federal Health  
106 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, unless the person or provider disclosing such records  
107 intended the harm or acted in bad faith.

108 § 32.1-127.1:03. Health records privacy.

109 A. There is hereby recognized an individual's right of privacy in the content of his health records.  
110 Health records are the property of the health care entity maintaining them, and, except when permitted  
111 or required by this section or by other provisions of state law, no health care entity, or other person  
112 working in a health care setting, may disclose an individual's health records.

113 Pursuant to this subsection:

114 1. Health care entities shall disclose health records to the individual who is the subject of the health  
115 record, except as provided in subsections E and F of this section and subsection B of § 8.01-413.

116 2. Health records shall not be removed from the premises where they are maintained without the  
117 approval of the health care entity that maintains such health records, except in accordance with a court  
118 order or subpoena consistent with subsection C of § 8.01-413 or with this section or in accordance with  
119 the regulations relating to change of ownership of health records promulgated by a health regulatory  
120 board established in Title 54.1.

121 3. No person to whom health records are disclosed shall redisclose or otherwise reveal the health

records of an individual, beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made, without first obtaining the individual's specific authorization to such redisclosure. This redisclosure prohibition shall not, however, prevent (i) any health care entity that receives health records from another health care entity from making subsequent disclosures as permitted under this section and the federal Department of Health and Human Services regulations relating to privacy of the electronic transmission of data and protected health information promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.) or (ii) any health care entity from furnishing health records and aggregate or other data, from which individually identifying prescription information has been removed, encoded or encrypted, to qualified researchers, including, but not limited to, pharmaceutical manufacturers and their agents or contractors, for purposes of clinical, pharmaco-epidemiological, pharmaco-economic, or other health services research.

B. As used in this section:

"Agent" means a person who has been appointed as an individual's agent under a power of attorney for health care or an advance directive under the Health Care Decisions Act (§ 54.1-2981 et seq.).

"Certification" means a written representation that is delivered by hand, by first-class mail, by overnight delivery service, or by facsimile if the sender obtains a facsimile-machine-generated confirmation reflecting that all facsimile pages were successfully transmitted.

"Guardian" means a court-appointed guardian of the person.

"Health care clearinghouse" means, consistent with the definition set out in 45 C.F.R. § 160.103, a public or private entity, such as a billing service, repricing company, community health management information system or community health information system, and "value-added" networks and switches, that performs either of the following functions: (i) processes or facilitates the processing of health information received from another entity in a nonstandard format or containing nonstandard data content into standard data elements or a standard transaction; or (ii) receives a standard transaction from another entity and processes or facilitates the processing of health information into nonstandard format or nonstandard data content for the receiving entity.

"Health care entity" means any health care provider, health plan or health care clearinghouse.

"Health care provider" means those entities listed in the definition of "health care provider" in § 8.01-581.1, except that state-operated facilities shall also be considered health care providers for the purposes of this section. Health care provider shall also include all persons who are licensed, certified, registered or permitted or who hold a multistate licensure privilege issued by any of the health regulatory boards within the Department of Health Professions, except persons regulated by the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers or the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

"Health plan" means an individual or group plan that provides, or pays the cost of, medical care. "Health plan" shall include any entity included in such definition as set out in 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

"Health record" means any written, printed or electronically recorded material maintained by a health care entity in the course of providing health services to an individual concerning the individual and the services provided. "Health record" also includes the substance of any communication made by an individual to a health care entity in confidence during or in connection with the provision of health services or information otherwise acquired by the health care entity about an individual in confidence and in connection with the provision of health services to the individual.

"Health services" means, but shall not be limited to, examination, diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, pharmaceuticals, aftercare, habilitation or rehabilitation and mental health therapy of any kind, as well as payment or reimbursement for any such services.

"Individual" means a patient who is receiving or has received health services from a health care entity.

"Individually identifying prescription information" means all prescriptions, drug orders or any other prescription information that specifically identifies an individual.

"Parent" means a biological, adoptive or foster parent.

"Psychotherapy notes" means comments, recorded in any medium by a health care provider who is a mental health professional, documenting or analyzing the contents of conversation during a private counseling session with an individual or a group, joint, or family counseling session that are separated from the rest of the individual's health record. "Psychotherapy notes" shall not include annotations relating to medication and prescription monitoring, counseling session start and stop times, treatment modalities and frequencies, clinical test results, or any summary of any symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, functional status, treatment plan, or the individual's progress to date.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any of the following:

1. The status of and release of information governed by §§ 65.2-604 and 65.2-607 of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act;

2. Except where specifically provided herein, the health records of minors; or

183 3. The release of juvenile health records to a secure facility or a shelter care facility pursuant to  
184 § 16.1-248.3.

185 D. Health care entities may, and, when required by other provisions of state law, shall, disclose  
186 health records:

187 1. As set forth in subsection E, pursuant to the written authorization of (i) the individual or (ii) in the  
188 case of a minor, (a) his custodial parent, guardian or other person authorized to consent to treatment of  
189 minors pursuant to § 54.1-2969 or (b) the minor himself, if he has consented to his own treatment  
190 pursuant to § 54.1-2969, or (iii) in emergency cases or situations where it is impractical to obtain an  
191 individual's written authorization, pursuant to the individual's oral authorization for a health care  
192 provider or health plan to discuss the individual's health records with a third party specified by the  
193 individual;

194 2. In compliance with a subpoena issued in accord with subsection H, pursuant to a search warrant  
195 or a grand jury subpoena, pursuant to court order upon good cause shown or in compliance with a  
196 subpoena issued pursuant to subsection C of § 8.01-413;

197 3. In accord with subsection F of § 8.01-399 including, but not limited to, situations where disclosure  
198 is reasonably necessary to establish or collect a fee or to defend a health care entity or the health care  
199 entity's employees or staff against any accusation of wrongful conduct; also as required in the course of  
200 an investigation, audit, review or proceedings regarding a health care entity's conduct by a duly  
201 authorized law-enforcement, licensure, accreditation, or professional review entity;

202 4. In testimony in accordance with §§ 8.01-399 and 8.01-400.2;

203 5. In compliance with the provisions of § 8.01-413;

204 6. As required or authorized by law relating to public health activities, health oversight activities,  
205 serious threats to health or safety, or abuse, neglect or domestic violence, relating to contagious disease,  
206 public safety, and suspected child or adult abuse reporting requirements, including, but not limited to,  
207 those contained in §§ 32.1-36, 32.1-36.1, 32.1-40, 32.1-41, 32.1-127.1:04, 32.1-276.5, 32.1-283,  
208 32.1-283.1, 37.2-710, 37.2-839, 53.1-40.10, 54.1-2400.6, 54.1-2400.7, 54.1-2403.3, 54.1-2506,  
209 54.1-2966, 54.1-2966.1, 54.1-2967, 54.1-2968, 63.2-1509, and 63.2-1606;

210 7. Where necessary in connection with the care of the individual;

211 8. In connection with the health care entity's own health care operations or the health care operations  
212 of another health care entity, as specified in 45 C.F.R. § 164.501, or in the normal course of business in  
213 accordance with accepted standards of practice within the health services setting; however, the  
214 maintenance, storage, and disclosure of the mass of prescription dispensing records maintained in a  
215 pharmacy registered or permitted in Virginia shall only be accomplished in compliance with  
216 §§ 54.1-3410, 54.1-3411, and 54.1-3412;

217 9. When the individual has waived his right to the privacy of the health records;

218 10. When examination and evaluation of an individual are undertaken pursuant to judicial or  
219 administrative law order, but only to the extent as required by such order;

220 11. To the guardian ad litem and any attorney representing the respondent in the course of a  
221 guardianship proceeding of an adult patient who is the respondent in a proceeding under Chapter 10  
222 (§ 37.2-1000 et seq.) of Title 37.2;

223 12. To the *guardian ad litem* and any attorney appointed by the court to represent an individual who  
224 is or has been a patient who is the subject of a civil commitment proceeding under Article 5 (§ 37.2-814  
225 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2 or a judicial authorization for treatment proceeding pursuant to  
226 Chapter 11 (§ 37.2-1100 et seq.) of Title 37.2;

227 13. *To a magistrate, the court, the evaluator or examiner required under § 16.1-338, 16.1-339,*  
228 *16.1-342, or 37.2-815, a community services board or behavioral health authority or a designee of a*  
229 *community services board or behavioral health authority, or a law-enforcement officer participating in*  
230 *any proceeding under Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1, § 19.2-169.6, 19.2-176,*  
231 *or 19.2-177.1, or Chapter 8 (§ 37.2-800 et seq.) of Title 37.2 regarding the subject of the proceeding,*  
232 *and to any health care provider evaluating or providing services to the person who is the subject of the*  
233 *proceeding or monitoring the person's adherence to a treatment plan ordered under those provisions.*  
234 *Health records disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall be limited to information necessary to*  
235 *protect the officer, the person, or the public from physical injury or to address the health care needs of*  
236 *the person. Information disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall not be used for any other purpose,*  
237 *disclosed to others, or retained;*

238 14. To the attorney and/or guardian ad litem of a minor who represents such minor in any judicial or  
239 administrative proceeding, if the court or administrative hearing officer has entered an order granting the  
240 attorney or guardian ad litem this right and such attorney or guardian ad litem presents evidence to the  
241 health care entity of such order;

242 ~~14-15.~~ With regard to the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, a minor's health  
243 records in accord with § 9.1-156;

244 ~~15-16.~~ To an agent appointed under an individual's power of attorney or to an agent or decision

maker designated in an individual's advance directive for health care or for decisions on anatomical gifts and organ, tissue or eye donation or to any other person consistent with the provisions of the Health Care Decisions Act (§ 54.1-2981 et seq.);

~~16-17.~~ To third-party payors and their agents for purposes of reimbursement;

~~17-18.~~ As is necessary to support an application for receipt of health care benefits from a governmental agency or as required by an authorized governmental agency reviewing such application or reviewing benefits already provided or as necessary to the coordination of prevention and control of disease, injury, or disability and delivery of such health care benefits pursuant to § 32.1-127.1:04;

~~18-19.~~ Upon the sale of a medical practice as provided in § 54.1-2405; or upon a change of ownership or closing of a pharmacy pursuant to regulations of the Board of Pharmacy;

~~19-20.~~ In accord with subsection B of § 54.1-2400.1, to communicate an individual's specific and immediate threat to cause serious bodily injury or death of an identified or readily identifiable person;

~~20-21.~~ Where necessary in connection with the implementation of a hospital's routine contact process for organ donation pursuant to subdivision B 4 of § 32.1-127;

~~21-22.~~ In the case of substance abuse records, when permitted by and in conformity with requirements of federal law found in 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2 and 42 C.F.R. Part 2;

~~22-23.~~ In connection with the work of any entity established as set forth in § 8.01-581.16 to evaluate the adequacy or quality of professional services or the competency and qualifications for professional staff privileges;

~~23-24.~~ If the health records are those of a deceased or mentally incapacitated individual to the personal representative or executor of the deceased individual or the legal guardian or committee of the incompetent or incapacitated individual or if there is no personal representative, executor, legal guardian or committee appointed, to the following persons in the following order of priority: a spouse, an adult son or daughter, either parent, an adult brother or sister, or any other relative of the deceased individual in order of blood relationship;

~~24-25.~~ For the purpose of conducting record reviews of inpatient hospital deaths to promote identification of all potential organ, eye, and tissue donors in conformance with the requirements of applicable federal law and regulations, including 42 C.F.R. § 482.45, (i) to the health care provider's designated organ procurement organization certified by the United States Health Care Financing Administration and (ii) to any eye bank or tissue bank in Virginia certified by the Eye Bank Association of America or the American Association of Tissue Banks;

~~25-26.~~ To the Office of the Inspector General for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services pursuant to Article 3 (§ 37.2-423 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 37.2;

~~26-27.~~ To an entity participating in the activities of a local health partnership authority established pursuant to Article 6.1 (§ 32.1-122.10:001 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of this title, pursuant to subdivision 1 of this subsection;

~~27-28.~~ To law-enforcement officials by each licensed emergency medical services agency, (i) when the individual is the victim of a crime or (ii) when the individual has been arrested and has received emergency medical services or has refused emergency medical services and the health records consist of the prehospital patient care report required by § 32.1-116.1;

~~28-29.~~ To law-enforcement officials, in response to their request, for the purpose of identifying or locating a suspect, fugitive, person required to register pursuant to § 9.1-901 of the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Act, material witness, or missing person, provided that only the following information may be disclosed: (i) name and address of the person, (ii) date and place of birth of the person, (iii) social security number of the person, (iv) blood type of the person, (v) date and time of treatment received by the person, (vi) date and time of death of the person, where applicable, (vii) description of distinguishing physical characteristics of the person, and (viii) type of injury sustained by the person.

~~29-30.~~ To law-enforcement officials regarding the death of an individual for the purpose of alerting law enforcement of the death if the health care entity has a suspicion that such death may have resulted from criminal conduct;

~~30-31.~~ To law-enforcement officials if the health care entity believes in good faith that the information disclosed constitutes evidence of a crime that occurred on its premises;

~~31-32.~~ To the State Health Commissioner pursuant to § 32.1-48.015 when such records are those of a person or persons who are subject to an order of quarantine or an order of isolation pursuant to Article 3.02 (§ 32.1-48.05 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of this title; and

~~32-33.~~ To the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry or his designee by each licensed emergency medical services agency when the records consist of the prehospital patient care report required by § 32.1-116.1 and the patient has suffered an injury or death on a work site while performing duties or tasks that are within the scope of his employment.

Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions 1 through ~~32~~ 33 of this subsection, a health care

entity shall obtain an individual's written authorization for any disclosure of psychotherapy notes, except when disclosure by the health care entity is (i) for its own training programs in which students, trainees, or practitioners in mental health are being taught under supervision to practice or to improve their skills in group, joint, family, or individual counseling; (ii) to defend itself or its employees or staff against any accusation of wrongful conduct; (iii) in the discharge of the duty, in accordance with subsection B of § 54.1-2400.1, to take precautions to protect third parties from violent behavior or other serious harm; (iv) required in the course of an investigation, audit, review, or proceeding regarding a health care entity's conduct by a duly authorized law-enforcement, licensure, accreditation, or professional review entity; or (v) otherwise required by law.

E. Requests for copies of health records shall (i) be in writing, dated and signed by the requester; (ii) identify the nature of the information requested; and (iii) include evidence of the authority of the requester to receive such copies and identification of the person to whom the information is to be disclosed. The health care entity shall accept a photocopy, facsimile, or other copy of the original signed by the requestor as if it were an original. Within 15 days of receipt of a request for copies of health records, the health care entity shall do one of the following: (i) furnish such copies to any requester authorized to receive them; (ii) inform the requester if the information does not exist or cannot be found; (iii) if the health care entity does not maintain a record of the information, so inform the requester and provide the name and address, if known, of the health care entity who maintains the record; or (iv) deny the request (a) under subsection F, (b) on the grounds that the requester has not established his authority to receive such health records or proof of his identity, or (c) as otherwise provided by law. Procedures set forth in this section shall apply only to requests for health records not specifically governed by other provisions of state law.

F. Except as provided in subsection B of § 8.01-413, copies of an individual's health records shall not be furnished to such individual or anyone authorized to act on the individual's behalf when the individual's treating physician or the individual's treating clinical psychologist has made a part of the individual's record a written statement that, in the exercise of his professional judgment, the furnishing to or review by the individual of such health records would be reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the individual or another person, or that such health record makes reference to a person other than a health care provider and the access requested would be reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to such referenced person. If any health care entity denies a request for copies of health records based on such statement, the health care entity shall inform the individual of the individual's right to designate, in writing, at his own expense, another reviewing physician or clinical psychologist, whose licensure, training and experience relative to the individual's condition are at least equivalent to that of the physician or clinical psychologist upon whose opinion the denial is based. The designated reviewing physician or clinical psychologist shall make a judgment as to whether to make the health record available to the individual.

The health care entity denying the request shall also inform the individual of the individual's right to request in writing that such health care entity designate, at its own expense, a physician or clinical psychologist, whose licensure, training, and experience relative to the individual's condition are at least equivalent to that of the physician or clinical psychologist upon whose professional judgment the denial is based and who did not participate in the original decision to deny the health records, who shall make a judgment as to whether to make the health record available to the individual. The health care entity shall comply with the judgment of the reviewing physician or clinical psychologist. The health care entity shall permit copying and examination of the health record by such other physician or clinical psychologist designated by either the individual at his own expense or by the health care entity at its expense.

Any health record copied for review by any such designated physician or clinical psychologist shall be accompanied by a statement from the custodian of the health record that the individual's treating physician or clinical psychologist determined that the individual's review of his health record would be reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the individual or would be reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to a person referenced in the health record who is not a health care provider.

Further, nothing herein shall be construed as giving, or interpreted to bestow the right to receive copies of, or otherwise obtain access to, psychotherapy notes to any individual or any person authorized to act on his behalf.

G. A written authorization to allow release of an individual's health records shall substantially include the following information:

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH RECORDS

Individual's Name .....

Health Care Entity's Name .....

Person, Agency, or Health Care Entity to whom disclosure is to be made .....

Information or Health Records to be disclosed .....  
 Purpose of Disclosure or at the Request of the Individual .....  
 As the person signing this authorization, I understand that I am  
 giving my permission to the above-named health care entity for  
 disclosure of confidential health records. I understand that the health  
 care entity may not condition treatment or payment on my willingness  
 to sign this authorization unless the specific circumstances under  
 which such conditioning is permitted by law are applicable and are  
 set forth in this authorization. I also understand that I have the  
 right to revoke this authorization at any time, but that my revocation  
 is not effective until delivered in writing to the person  
 who is in possession of my health records and is not effective as to  
 health records already disclosed under this authorization. A copy of  
 this authorization and a notation concerning the persons or agencies  
 to whom disclosure was made shall be included with my original health  
 records. I understand that health information disclosed under this  
 authorization might be redisclosed by a recipient and may, as a result  
 of such disclosure, no longer be protected to the same extent as such  
 health information was protected by law while solely in the possession  
 of the health care entity.  
 This authorization expires on (date) or (event) .....  
 Signature of Individual or Individual's Legal Representative if Individual  
 is Unable to Sign .....  
 Relationship or Authority of Legal Representative .....  
 Date of Signature .....

H. Pursuant to this subsection:

1. Unless excepted from these provisions in subdivision 9 of this subsection, no party to a civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding shall request the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum for another party's health records or cause a subpoena duces tecum to be issued by an attorney unless a copy of the request for the subpoena or a copy of the attorney-issued subpoena is provided to the other party's counsel or to the other party if pro se, simultaneously with filing the request or issuance of the subpoena. No party to an action or proceeding shall request or cause the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum for the health records of a nonparty witness unless a copy of the request for the subpoena or a copy of the attorney-issued subpoena is provided to the nonparty witness simultaneously with filing the request or issuance of the attorney-issued subpoena.

No subpoena duces tecum for health records shall set a return date earlier than 15 days from the date of the subpoena except by order of a court or administrative agency for good cause shown. When a court or administrative agency directs that health records be disclosed pursuant to a subpoena duces tecum earlier than 15 days from the date of the subpoena, a copy of the order shall accompany the subpoena.

Any party requesting a subpoena duces tecum for health records or on whose behalf the subpoena duces tecum is being issued shall have the duty to determine whether the individual whose health records are being sought is pro se or a nonparty.

In instances where health records being subpoenaed are those of a pro se party or nonparty witness, the party requesting or issuing the subpoena shall deliver to the pro se party or nonparty witness together with the copy of the request for subpoena, or a copy of the subpoena in the case of an attorney-issued subpoena, a statement informing them of their rights and remedies. The statement shall include the following language and the heading shall be in boldface capital letters:

**NOTICE TO INDIVIDUAL**

The attached document means that (insert name of party requesting or causing issuance of the subpoena) has either asked the court or administrative agency to issue a subpoena or a subpoena has been issued by the other party's attorney to your doctor, other health care providers (names of health care providers inserted here) or other health care entity (name of health care entity to be inserted here) requiring them to produce your health records. Your doctor, other health care provider or other health care entity is required to respond by providing a copy of your health records. If you believe your health records should not be disclosed and object to their disclosure, you have the right to file a motion with the clerk of the court or the administrative agency to quash the subpoena. If you elect to file a motion to quash, such motion must be filed within 15 days of the date of the request or of the attorney-issued subpoena. You may contact the clerk's office or the administrative agency to determine the requirements

that must be satisfied when filing a motion to quash and you may elect to contact an attorney to represent your interest. If you elect to file a motion to quash, you must notify your doctor, other health care provider(s), or other health care entity, that you are filing the motion so that the health care provider or health care entity knows to send the health records to the clerk of court or administrative agency in a sealed envelope or package for safekeeping while your motion is decided.

2. Any party filing a request for a subpoena duces tecum or causing such a subpoena to be issued for an individual's health records shall include a Notice in the same part of the request in which the recipient of the subpoena duces tecum is directed where and when to return the health records. Such notice shall be in boldface capital letters and shall include the following language:

NOTICE TO HEALTH CARE ENTITIES

A COPY OF THIS SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE HEALTH RECORDS ARE BEING REQUESTED OR HIS COUNSEL. YOU OR THAT INDIVIDUAL HAS THE RIGHT TO FILE A MOTION TO QUASH (OBJECT TO) THE ATTACHED SUBPOENA. IF YOU ELECT TO FILE A MOTION TO QUASH, YOU MUST FILE THE MOTION WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS SUBPOENA.

YOU MUST NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUBPOENA UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED WRITTEN CERTIFICATION FROM THE PARTY ON WHOSE BEHALF THE SUBPOENA WAS ISSUED THAT THE TIME FOR FILING A MOTION TO QUASH HAS ELAPSED AND THAT:

NO MOTION TO QUASH WAS FILED; OR

ANY MOTION TO QUASH HAS BEEN RESOLVED BY THE COURT OR THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY AND THE DISCLOSURES SOUGHT ARE CONSISTENT WITH SUCH RESOLUTION.

IF YOU RECEIVE NOTICE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE HEALTH RECORDS ARE BEING REQUESTED HAS FILED A MOTION TO QUASH THIS SUBPOENA, OR IF YOU FILE A MOTION TO QUASH THIS SUBPOENA, YOU MUST SEND THE HEALTH RECORDS ONLY TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY THAT ISSUED THE SUBPOENA OR IN WHICH THE ACTION IS PENDING AS SHOWN ON THE SUBPOENA USING THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

PLACE THE HEALTH RECORDS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND ATTACH TO THE SEALED ENVELOPE A COVER LETTER TO THE CLERK OF COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY WHICH STATES THAT CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH RECORDS ARE ENCLOSED AND ARE TO BE HELD UNDER SEAL PENDING A RULING ON THE MOTION TO QUASH THE SUBPOENA. THE SEALED ENVELOPE AND THE COVER LETTER SHALL BE PLACED IN AN OUTER ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY.

3. Upon receiving a valid subpoena duces tecum for health records, health care entities shall have the duty to respond to the subpoena in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this subsection.

4. Except to deliver to a clerk of the court or administrative agency subpoenaed health records in a sealed envelope as set forth, health care entities shall not respond to a subpoena duces tecum for such health records until they have received a certification as set forth in subdivision 5 or 8 of this subsection from the party on whose behalf the subpoena duces tecum was issued.

If the health care entity has actual receipt of notice that a motion to quash the subpoena has been filed or if the health care entity files a motion to quash the subpoena for health records, then the health care entity shall produce the health records, in a securely sealed envelope, to the clerk of the court or administrative agency issuing the subpoena or in whose court or administrative agency the action is pending. The court or administrative agency shall place the health records under seal until a determination is made regarding the motion to quash. The securely sealed envelope shall only be opened on order of the judge or administrative agency. In the event the court or administrative agency grants the motion to quash, the health records shall be returned to the health care entity in the same sealed envelope in which they were delivered to the court or administrative agency. In the event that a judge or administrative agency orders the sealed envelope to be opened to review the health records in camera, a copy of the order shall accompany any health records returned to the health care entity. The health records returned to the health care entity shall be in a securely sealed envelope.

5. If no motion to quash is filed within 15 days of the date of the request or of the attorney-issued subpoena, the party on whose behalf the subpoena was issued shall have the duty to certify to the subpoenaed health care entity that the time for filing a motion to quash has elapsed and that no motion to quash was filed. Any health care entity receiving such certification shall have the duty to comply with the subpoena duces tecum by returning the specified health records by either the return date on the subpoena or five days after receipt of the certification, whichever is later.

6. In the event that the individual whose health records are being sought files a motion to quash the subpoena, the court or administrative agency shall decide whether good cause has been shown by the



discovering party to compel disclosure of the individual's health records over the individual's objections. In determining whether good cause has been shown, the court or administrative agency shall consider (i) the particular purpose for which the information was collected; (ii) the degree to which the disclosure of the records would embarrass, injure, or invade the privacy of the individual; (iii) the effect of the disclosure on the individual's future health care; (iv) the importance of the information to the lawsuit or proceeding; and (v) any other relevant factor.

7. Concurrent with the court or administrative agency's resolution of a motion to quash, if subpoenaed health records have been submitted by a health care entity to the court or administrative agency in a sealed envelope, the court or administrative agency shall: (i) upon determining that no submitted health records should be disclosed, return all submitted health records to the health care entity in a sealed envelope; (ii) upon determining that all submitted health records should be disclosed, provide all the submitted health records to the party on whose behalf the subpoena was issued; or (iii) upon determining that only a portion of the submitted health records should be disclosed, provide such portion to the party on whose behalf the subpoena was issued and return the remaining health records to the health care entity in a sealed envelope.

8. Following the court or administrative agency's resolution of a motion to quash, the party on whose behalf the subpoena duces tecum was issued shall have the duty to certify in writing to the subpoenaed health care entity a statement of one of the following:

a. All filed motions to quash have been resolved by the court or administrative agency and the disclosures sought in the subpoena duces tecum are consistent with such resolution; and, therefore, the health records previously delivered in a sealed envelope to the clerk of the court or administrative agency will not be returned to the health care entity;

b. All filed motions to quash have been resolved by the court or administrative agency and the disclosures sought in the subpoena duces tecum are consistent with such resolution and that, since no health records have previously been delivered to the court or administrative agency by the health care entity, the health care entity shall comply with the subpoena duces tecum by returning the health records designated in the subpoena by the return date on the subpoena or five days after receipt of certification, whichever is later;

c. All filed motions to quash have been resolved by the court or administrative agency and the disclosures sought in the subpoena duces tecum are not consistent with such resolution; therefore, no health records shall be disclosed and all health records previously delivered in a sealed envelope to the clerk of the court or administrative agency will be returned to the health care entity;

d. All filed motions to quash have been resolved by the court or administrative agency and the disclosures sought in the subpoena duces tecum are not consistent with such resolution and that only limited disclosure has been authorized. The certification shall state that only the portion of the health records as set forth in the certification, consistent with the court or administrative agency's ruling, shall be disclosed. The certification shall also state that health records that were previously delivered to the court or administrative agency for which disclosure has been authorized will not be returned to the health care entity; however, all health records for which disclosure has not been authorized will be returned to the health care entity; or

e. All filed motions to quash have been resolved by the court or administrative agency and the disclosures sought in the subpoena duces tecum are not consistent with such resolution and, since no health records have previously been delivered to the court or administrative agency by the health care entity, the health care entity shall return only those health records specified in the certification, consistent with the court or administrative agency's ruling, by the return date on the subpoena or five days after receipt of the certification, whichever is later.

A copy of the court or administrative agency's ruling shall accompany any certification made pursuant to this subdivision.

9. The provisions of this subsection have no application to subpoenas for health records requested under § 8.01-413, or issued by a duly authorized administrative agency conducting an investigation, audit, review or proceedings regarding a health care entity's conduct.

The provisions of this subsection shall apply to subpoenas for the health records of both minors and adults.

Nothing in this subsection shall have any effect on the existing authority of a court or administrative agency to issue a protective order regarding health records, including, but not limited to, ordering the return of health records to a health care entity, after the period for filing a motion to quash has passed.

A subpoena for substance abuse records must conform to the requirements of federal law found in 42 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart E.

I. Health care entities may testify about the health records of an individual in compliance with §§ 8.01-399 and 8.01-400.2.

J. If an individual requests a copy of his health record from a health care entity, the health care

entity may impose a reasonable cost-based fee, which shall include only the cost of supplies for and labor of copying the requested information, postage when the individual requests that such information be mailed, and preparation of an explanation or summary of such information as agreed to by the individual. For the purposes of this section, "individual" shall subsume a person with authority to act on behalf of the individual who is the subject of the health record in making decisions related to his health care.

§ 37.2-804.2. *Disclosure of records.*

Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider who has provided or is currently providing services to a person who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to this chapter shall disclose to a magistrate, the court, the person's attorney, the person's guardian ad litem, the examiner identified to perform an examination pursuant to § 37.2-815, the community services board or its designee performing any evaluation, preadmission screening, or monitoring duties pursuant to this chapter, or a law-enforcement officer any information that is necessary and appropriate for the performance of his duties pursuant to this chapter. Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider who has provided or is currently evaluating or providing services to a person who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to this chapter shall disclose information that may be necessary for the treatment of such person to any other health care provider or other provider evaluating or providing services to or monitoring the treatment of the person. Health records disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall be limited to information necessary to protect the officer, the person, or the public from physical injury or to address the health care needs of the person. Information disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall not be used for any other purpose, disclosed to others, or retained.

Any health care provider disclosing records pursuant to this section shall be immune from civil liability for any harm resulting from the disclosure, including any liability under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, unless the person or provider disclosing such records intended the harm or acted in bad faith.