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**SENATE BILL NO. 1077**

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 13, 2009

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-127.1:03 and 37.2-804.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to notification of family member of person involved in the commitment process.*

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 Patron—Howell
 

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 Referred to Committee on Education and Health
 

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

**1. That §§ 32.1-127.1:03 and 37.2-804.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 32.1-127.1:03. Health records privacy.

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

Pursuant to this subsection:

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

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

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

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59 regulatory boards within the Department of Health Professions, except persons regulated by the Board of  
60 Funeral Directors and Embalmers or the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

88 3. The release of juvenile health records to a secure facility or a shelter care facility pursuant to  
89 § 16.1-248.3.

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

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

99 2. In compliance with a subpoena issued in accord with subsection H, pursuant to a search warrant  
100 or a grand jury subpoena, pursuant to court order upon good cause shown or in compliance with a  
101 subpoena issued pursuant to subsection C of § 8.01-413. Regardless of the manner by which health  
102 records relating to an individual are compelled to be disclosed pursuant to this subdivision, nothing in  
103 this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit any staff or employee of a health care entity from  
104 providing information about such individual to a law-enforcement officer in connection with such  
105 subpoena, search warrant, or court order;

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

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

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

113 6. As required or authorized by law relating to public health activities, health oversight activities,  
114 serious threats to health or safety, or abuse, neglect or domestic violence, relating to contagious disease,  
115 public safety, and suspected child or adult abuse reporting requirements, including, but not limited to,  
116 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,  
117 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,  
118 54.1-2966, 54.1-2966.1, 54.1-2967, 54.1-2968, 63.2-1509, and 63.2-1606;

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

120 8. In connection with the health care entity's own health care operations or the health care operations

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

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

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

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

12. To the guardian ad litem and any attorney appointed by the court to represent an individual who is or has been a patient who is the subject of a commitment proceeding under § 19.2-169.6, 19.2-176, or 19.2-177.1, Article 5 (§ 37.2-814 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2, Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1, or a judicial authorization for treatment proceeding pursuant to Chapter 11 (§ 37.2-1100 et seq.) of Title 37.2;

13. To a magistrate, the court, the evaluator or examiner required under § 16.1-338, 16.1-339, 16.1-342, or 37.2-815, a community services board or behavioral health authority or a designee of a community services board or behavioral health authority, or a law-enforcement officer participating in any proceeding under Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1, § 19.2-169.6, 19.2-176, or 19.2-177.1, or Chapter 8 (§ 37.2-800 et seq.) of Title 37.2 regarding the subject of the proceeding, and to any health care provider evaluating or providing services to the person who is the subject of the proceeding or monitoring the person's adherence to a treatment plan ordered under those provisions. 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;

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

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

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.);

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

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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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

182 applicable federal law and regulations, including 42 C.F.R. § 482.45, (i) to the health care provider's  
183 designated organ procurement organization certified by the United States Health Care Financing  
184 Administration and (ii) to any eye bank or tissue bank in Virginia certified by the Eye Bank Association  
185 of America or the American Association of Tissue Banks;

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

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

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

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

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

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

208 32. To the State Health Commissioner pursuant to § 32.1-48.015 when such records are those of a  
209 person or persons who are subject to an order of quarantine or an order of isolation pursuant to Article  
210 3.02 (§ 32.1-48.05 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of this title; and

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

215 34. *To notify a family member or personal representative of an individual who is the subject of a*  
216 *proceeding pursuant to Chapter 8 (§ 37.2-800 et seq.) of Title 37.2 of the individual's location and*  
217 *general condition, when the individual has the capacity to make health care decisions and (i) the*  
218 *individual has agreed to the notification, (ii) the individual has been provided an opportunity to object*  
219 *to the notification and does not express an objection, or (iii) the health care provider can, on the basis*  
220 *of his professional judgment, reasonably infer from the circumstances that the individual does not object*  
221 *to the notification. If the individual is incapable of making a decision regarding notification or an*  
222 *opportunity to object to notification cannot practicably be provided because of an emergency*  
223 *circumstance, notification may be made if the health care provider, in the exercise of his professional*  
224 *judgment, determines that the notification is in the best interests of the individual. Such notification shall*  
225 *not be made if the provider has actual knowledge the family member or personal representative is*  
226 *currently prohibited by court order from contacting the individual.*

227 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions 1 through 3334 of this subsection, a health care entity  
228 shall obtain an individual's written authorization for any disclosure of psychotherapy notes, except when  
229 disclosure by the health care entity is (i) for its own training programs in which students, trainees, or  
230 practitioners in mental health are being taught under supervision to practice or to improve their skills in  
231 group, joint, family, or individual counseling; (ii) to defend itself or its employees or staff against any  
232 accusation of wrongful conduct; (iii) in the discharge of the duty, in accordance with subsection B of  
233 § 54.1-2400.1, to take precautions to protect third parties from violent behavior or other serious harm;  
234 (iv) required in the course of an investigation, audit, review, or proceeding regarding a health care  
235 entity's conduct by a duly authorized law-enforcement, licensure, accreditation, or professional review  
236 entity; or (v) otherwise required by law.

237 E. Requests for copies of health records shall (i) be in writing, dated and signed by the requester; (ii)  
238 identify the nature of the information requested; and (iii) include evidence of the authority of the  
239 requester to receive such copies and identification of the person to whom the information is to be  
240 disclosed. The health care entity shall accept a photocopy, facsimile, or other copy of the original signed  
241 by the requestor as if it were an original. Within 15 days of receipt of a request for copies of health  
242 records, the health care entity shall do one of the following: (i) furnish such copies to any requester  
243 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:

365 NO MOTION TO QUASH WAS FILED; OR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

407 6. In the event that the individual whose health records are being sought files a motion to quash the  
408 subpoena, the court or administrative agency shall decide whether good cause has been shown by the  
409 discovering party to compel disclosure of the individual's health records over the individual's objections.  
410 In determining whether good cause has been shown, the court or administrative agency shall consider (i)  
411 the particular purpose for which the information was collected; (ii) the degree to which the disclosure of  
412 the records would embarrass, injure, or invade the privacy of the individual; (iii) the effect of the  
413 disclosure on the individual's future health care; (iv) the importance of the information to the lawsuit or  
414 proceeding; and (v) any other relevant factor.

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

424 8. Following the court or administrative agency's resolution of a motion to quash, the party on whose  
425 behalf the subpoena duces tecum was issued shall have the duty to certify in writing to the subpoenaed

426 health care entity a statement of one of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

467 I. Health care entities may testify about the health records of an individual in compliance with  
468 §§ 8.01-399 and 8.01-400.2.

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

476 § 37.2-804.2. Disclosure of records.

477 Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider who has provided or is  
478 currently providing services to a person who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to this chapter shall,  
479 upon request, disclose to a magistrate, the court, the person's attorney, the person's guardian ad litem,  
480 the examiner identified to perform an examination pursuant to § 37.2-815, the community services board  
481 or its designee performing any evaluation, preadmission screening, or monitoring duties pursuant to this  
482 chapter, or a law-enforcement officer any information that is necessary and appropriate for the  
483 performance of his duties pursuant to this chapter. Any health care provider, as defined in  
484 § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider who has provided or is currently evaluating or providing services to a  
485 person who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to this chapter shall disclose information that may be  
486 necessary for the treatment of such person to any other health care provider or other provider evaluating  
487 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 providing services to a person who is the subject of proceedings under this chapter may notify the person's family member or personal representative of the person's location and general condition, in accordance with subdivision D 34 of § 32.1:127.1:03, unless the provider has actual knowledge that the family member or personal representative is currently prohibited by court order from contacting the person.*

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 (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.), as amended, unless the person or provider disclosing such records intended the harm or acted in bad faith.