

OLIVETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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

Purpose of this Notice: The Emergency Medical Service unit of the Olivette Fire Department (hereinafter, "O.F.D.") desires to maintain the privacy of certain confidential health care information, known as Protected Health Information or "PHI" and to provide you with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI. This Notice describes your rights, advises you of our privacy practices, and lets you know how O.F.D. may use and disclose PHI about you.

O.F.D. will abide by the terms of the version of this Notice currently in effect. In most situations we may use this information as described in this Notice without your permission, but there are some situations where we may use it only after we obtain your written authorization, if we are required by law to do so.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PHI: O.F.D. may use PHI for the purpose of treatment and health care operations, in most cases without your written permission. Examples of our use of your PHI:

For treatment: This includes such things as verbal and written information that we obtain about you and use pertaining to your medical condition and treatment provided to you by us and other medical personnel (including doctors and nurses who give orders to allow us to provide treatment to you). It also includes information we give to other health care personnel to whom we transfer your care and treatment and includes transfer of PHI via radio or telephone to the hospital or dispatch center as well as providing the hospital with a copy of the written records we create in the course of providing you with treatment and transport.

For Health Care Operation: This includes quality assurance activities, licensing, and training programs to ensure that our personnel meet our standards of care and follow established policies and procedures, obtaining legal and financial services, conducting business planning, processing grievances and complaints creating reports that do not individually identify you for data collection purposes and certain marketing activities.

USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PHI WITHOUT YOUR AUTHORIZATION: O.F.D. is authorized to use PHI without your written authorization, or opportunity to object in certain situations, including:

- ? For O.F.D.'s use in treating you or in other health care operations;
- ? For the treatment activities of another health care provider;
- ? To another health care provider or entity for the payment activities of the provider or entity that receives the information (such as your hospital or insurance company);
- ? To another health care provider (such as the hospital to which you are transported) for the health care operations activities of the entity that receives the information as long as the entity receiving the information has or has had a relationship with you and the PHI pertains to that relationship;
- ? For health care fraud and abuse detection or for activities related to compliance with the law;
- ? To a family member, other relative or close personal friend or other individual involved in your care if we obtain your verbal agreement to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. We may also disclose health information to your family, relatives, or friends if we infer from the circumstances that you would not object. For example, we may assume you agree to our disclosure of your personal health information to your spouse when your spouse has called O.F.D. for you. In situations where you are not capable of objecting (because you are not present or due to your incapacity or medical emergency) we may, in our professional judgment, determine that a disclosure to your family member, relative, or friend is in your best interest. In that situation, we will disclose only health information relevant to that person's involvement in your care. For example, we may inform the person who will accompany you in the ambulance that you have certain symptoms and we may give that person an update on vital signs and treatment that is being administered by our personnel;
- ? To a public health authority in certain situations such as reporting a birth death or disease as required by law, as part of public health investigation report child or adult abuse or neglect or domestic violence, to report adverse event such as product defects, or to notify a person about exposure to a possible communicable disease as required by law;
- ? For health oversight activities including audits or government investigations, inspections, disciplinary proceedings, and other administrative or judicial actions undertaken by the government (or their contractors) by law to oversee the health care systems;
- ? For judicial and administrative proceedings as required by a court or administrative order, or in some cases in response to a subpoena or other legal process;
- ? For law enforcement activities in limited situations, such as when there is a warrant for the request, or when the information is needed to locate a suspect or stop a crime;
- ? For military, national defense and security and other special government functions;
- ? To avert a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public at large;
- ? For worker's compensation purposes, and in compliance with worker's compensation laws;
- ? To coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors for identifying a deceased person, determining cause of death, or carrying on their duties as authorized by law;
- ? If you are an organ donor, we may release health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ donation and transplantation;

- ? For research projects, but this will be subject to strict oversight and approvals and health information will be released only when there is a mini risk to your privacy and adequate safeguards are in place in accordance with the la;
- ? We may use or disclose health information about you in a way that does not personally identify you or reveal who you are.

Any other use or disclosure of PHI, other than those listed above will only be made with your written authorization, (the authorization must specifically identify the information we seek to use or disclose, as well as when and how we seek to use or disclose it). **You may revoke your authorization at any time, in writing, except to the extent that we have already used or disclosed medical information in reliance on that authorization.**

Patient Rights: As a patient, you have a number of rights with respect to the protection of your PHI, including:

- ? Access to and copying or inspection of your PHI; you may come to our offices and inspect and copy most of the medical information about you that we maintain. We will normally provide you with access to this information within 30 days of your request. We may also charge you a reasonable fee for you to copy any medical information that you have the right access. In limited circumstance, we may deny you access to your medical information, and you may appeal certain types of denials.
- ? We have available forms to request access to your PHI and we will provide a written response if we deny you access and let you know your appeal rights. If you wish to inspect and copy your medical information, you should contact the privacy officer listed at the end of this Notice.
- ? Amending your PHI; you may ask us to amend written medical information that we may have about you. We will generally amend your information within 60 days of your request and will notify you when we have amended the information. We are permitted by law to deny your request to amend your medical information only in certain circumstances, like when we believe the information you have asked us to amend is correct. If you wish to request that we amend the medical information that we have about you, you should contact the privacy officer listed at the end of this Notice.
- ? An accounting of our use and disclosure of your PHI; you may request an accounting from us of certain disclosures of your medical information that we have made in the last six years prior to the date of your request. We are **not required** to give you an accounting of information we have used or disclosed for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations, or when we share your health information with our business associates or medical facility to which we have transported you.
- ? We are also **not required** to give you an accounting of our uses of protected health information for which you have already given us written authorization. If you wish to request an accounting of the medical information about you that we have used or disclose that is not exempted from the accounting requirement you should contact the privacy officer listed at the end of this Notice.
- ? Restriction of the uses and disclosures of PHI; you may request that we restrict how we use and disclosed your medical information that we have about you for treatment, payment or health care operations, or to restrict the information that is provided to family friends and other individuals involved in your health care. But if you request a restriction and the information you asked us to restrict is needed to provide you with emergency treatment, then we may use the PHI or disclose the PHI to a health care provider to provide you with emergency treatment. O.F.D. is not required to agree to any restrictions you request, but any restrictions agreed to by O.F.D. are binding on O. F. D.

Internet, Electronic Mail, and the Right to Obtain Copy of Paper Notice on Request. If we maintain a web site, we will prominently post a copy of this Notice on our web site and make the Notice available electronically through the web site. If you allow us, we will forward you this Notice by electronic mail instead of on paper and you may always request a paper copy of this Notice.

Revisions to the Notice: O.F.D. reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice at any time, and the change will be effected immediately and will apply to all protected health information that we maintain. Any material changes to the Notice will be promptly posted in our facilities and posted to our web site, if we maintain one. You can get a copy of the latest version of this Notice by contacting the Privacy Officer identified below.

Your Legal Rights and Complaints: You also have the right to complain to us, or to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated. You will not be retaliated against in any way for filing a complaint with us or to the government. Should you have any questions, comments or complaints you may direct all inquires to the privacy officer listed at the end of this Notice. Individuals will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

If you have any question or if you wish to file a complaint or exercise any right listed in this Notice, please contact the **O.F.D. Privacy Officer:**

*Assistant Fire Chief Larry Janes
City of Olivette Fire Department
9473 Olive Blvd.
Olivette, Mo 63132
(314)993-0408*

Effective Date of the Notice: April 14, 2003