

Joseph T. Wilkinson, LICSW

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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.

OUR LEGAL DUTY

Joseph T. Wilkinson, LICSW receives and generates certain protected health information about you that is stored in a medical record especially for you. We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect February 2, 2020, and remains in effect until modified.

We reserve the right to change our notice at any time and have the changes apply to protected health information we maintain, including information received before the change. If we make any material changes, we will post the revised notice in our waiting room. You may request a copy at any time.

PRIMARY USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Federal law allows Joseph T. Wilkinson, LICSW to use and disclose your protected health information without obtaining your written consent for treatment, payment, and health care operations. However, Rhode Island law requires your consent for certain disclosures, including those for payment and coordination of care. Therefore, we will request your consent upon admission.

These uses include:

- Treatment – coordination and management of care, consultations, and referrals.
- Operations – quality improvement, credentialing, audits, compliance, and business planning.

OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES (UNLESS YOU OBJECT)

Unless protected by federal/state confidentiality laws, we may communicate relevant health information to family or others involved in your care. We may notify them of your location, condition, or death, unless you object. In emergencies, we may act in your best interest.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION

We may disclose protected health information without consent when required by law. Examples include:

- • Mandated reporting of abuse/neglect (per RIGL § 40-11-3, § 42-66-8)
- • Public health reporting (e.g., communicable diseases, defective devices)
- • Health oversight (e.g., Medicaid audits)
- • Court orders and law enforcement (e.g., subpoenas, gunshot wounds)
- • Funeral, medical examiner, research under review board approval
- • Threat to public safety, federal protective services, correctional health care
- • Workers' compensation and appointment reminders

SENSITIVE INFORMATION PROTECTIONS

Special rules apply to psychiatric, HIV-related, and substance use information. Disclosures require specific consent except under certain legal circumstances.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to:

- • Request restrictions on certain uses/disclosures (though we may not be able to comply).
- • Request alternative communication methods or locations.
- • Inspect and copy your health records (excluding psychotherapy notes and court-related content).
- • Request amendments to your record.
- • Receive an accounting of certain disclosures.
- • Revoke prior authorizations (except where relied upon).
- • Request a paper copy of this notice.

QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS

If you have concerns or believe your privacy rights have been violated, contact our Privacy Officer at (401) 862-7254 or privacy@josephtwilkinsonlicsw.com. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We support your right to privacy and will not retaliate for filing a complaint.

