

Notice of Privacy Practices

Mary Cariola Children's Center
1000 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 100
Rochester, NY 14620

Contact Person
Privacy Officer
(585) 271-0761

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

Mary Cariola Children's Center is required by law to maintain the privacy of your child's health information and to provide you with notice of its legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your child's health information. Mary Cariola Children's Center is required to abide by the terms of this notice as currently in effect. If you have questions about any part of this notice or if you want more information about the privacy practices at Mary Cariola Children's Center please contact Privacy Officer.

Effective Date of This Notice: April 14, 2003

I. How Mary Cariola Children's Center may Use or Disclose Your Child's Health Information

Mary Cariola Children's Center compiles health information about your child and stores it in a chart and on a computer. This is your child's medical record. The medical record is the property of Mary Cariola Children's Center but the information in the medical record belongs to you. Mary Cariola Children's Center protects the privacy of your child's health information. The law permits Mary Cariola Children's Center to use or disclose your child's health information for the following purposes:

1. Information provided to you.
2. Treatment. Mary Cariola Children's Center provides clinical, educational, residential and advocacy services for children with developmental disabilities. Some examples include evaluation, development of your child's program objectives and communication among team members.
3. Payment. Mary Cariola Children's Center reports information about your child's services to a variety of funding sources in order to receive payment for your child's treatment and services. Funding sources include county health departments, school districts, New York State Medicaid and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.
4. Regular Health Care Operations. Mary Cariola Children's Center may use and disclose information about your child for our health care operations, which include internal administration and planning and various activities that improve the quality and cost effectiveness of the care that we deliver to your child. For example, we may disclose this information to evaluate the quality and competence of our Day Program and Community Services staff. We may disclose this information to our Privacy Officer in order to resolve any complaints you may have and ensure that you are satisfied with the quality of our services.

5. Directory. Mary Cariola Children's Center maintains a directory list of children, service locations and medical condition. Although federal regulations permit agencies to disclose this information in a public directory, it is not Mary Cariola Children's Center's practice to do so.
6. Notification and communication with family. We may disclose your child's health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your child's care. This disclosure may be about your child's location, your child's general condition or a serious medical issue for your child. If you are able and available to agree or object, we will give you the opportunity to object prior to making this notification. If you are unable or unavailable to agree or object, our staff will use their best judgment in communication with your child's family and others.
7. Required by law. As required by law, we may use and disclose your child's health information.
8. Public health. As required by law, we may disclose your child's health information to public health authorities for purposes related to: preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; reporting child abuse or neglect; reporting domestic violence; reporting to the Food and Drug Administration problems with products and reactions to medications; and reporting disease or infection exposure.
9. Health oversight activities. We may disclose your child's health information to health agencies during the course of audits, investigations, inspections, licensure and other proceedings.
10. Judicial and administrative proceedings. We may disclose your child's health information in the course of any administrative or judicial proceeding.
11. Law enforcement. We may disclose your child's health information to a law enforcement official for purposes such as identifying or locating a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person, complying with a court order or subpoena and other law enforcement purposes.
12. Deceased person information. We may disclose your child's health information to coroners, medical examiners and funeral directors.
13. Organ donation. We may disclose your child's health information to organizations involved in procuring, banking or transplanting organs and tissues.
14. Research. We may disclose your child's health information to researchers conducting research that has been approved by an Institutional Review Board. However, we would not give specific identifying information about your child without your consent.
15. Public safety. We may disclose your child's health information to appropriate persons in order to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a particular person or the general public.
16. Specialized government functions. We may disclose your child's health information for military or national security purposes.
17. Workers' compensation. We may disclose your child's health information as necessary to comply with workers' compensation laws.
18. Marketing. We may contact you to provide reminders or to give you information about other treatments or benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

19. Fund-raising. We may contact you to participate in fund-raising activities for Mary Cariola Children's Center.

20. Change of Ownership. In the event that Mary Cariola Children's Center is sold or merged with another organization, your health information/record will become the property of the new owner.

II. When Mary Cariola Children's Center May Not Use or Disclose Your Child's Health Information

Except as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices, Mary Cariola Children's Center will not use or disclose your child's health information without your written authorization. If you do authorize Mary Cariola Children's Center to use or disclose your child's health information for another purpose, you may revoke your authorization in writing at any time except to the extent that:

(i) The Mary Cariola Children's Center has disclosed the information prior to the revocation or

(ii) If the authorization was granted to obtain insurance coverage and the insurer has the right to contest a claim, the information may be disclosed .

III. Your Health Information Rights

1. You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your child's health information. Mary Cariola Children's Center is not required to agree to the restriction that you requested. In the event that the Mary Cariola Children's Center agrees to a restriction, it may not use or disclose protected health information in violation of such restriction, except that, if there is a need for emergency treatment and the restricted protected health information is needed to provide the emergency treatment, the Mary Cariola Children's Center may use the restricted protected health information, or may disclose such information to a health care provider, to provide such treatment to the individual. If restricted protected health information is disclosed to a health care provider for emergency treatment, the Mary Cariola Children's Center must request that such health care provider not further use or disclose the information.

2. You have the right to request receipt of your child's health information through a reasonable alternative means or at an alternative location. Mary Cariola Children's Center is not required to agree to this request.

3. You have the right to inspect and copy your child's health information. Legal restrictions regarding certain portions of the information may apply. Mary Cariola Children's Center may deny your request to inspect or copy your child's health information and will provide you with information about Mary Cariola Children's Center denial and how you can have the denial reviewed.

4. You have a right to request that Mary Cariola Children's Center amend your child's health information that is incorrect or incomplete. Mary Cariola Children's Center is not required to change your child's health information and will provide you with information about Mary Cariola Children's Center's denial and how you can have the denial reviewed.

5. You have a right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your child's health information made by Mary Cariola Children's Center for the six years prior to the date you request the accounting except that Mary Cariola Children's Center does not have to account for the disclosures described in parts 1 (information provided to you), 2 (treatment), 3 (payment), 4 (regular health care operations), 5 (directory listings) and 16 (specialized government functions) of section I of this Notice of Privacy Practices.

6. You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices.

7. You have the right to complain about this Notice of Privacy Practices or how Mary Cariola Children's Center handles your child's health information. Complaints should be directed to Brad Schreiber, Privacy Officer. If you are not satisfied with the manner in which this office handles a complaint, you may submit a formal complaint to Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg., 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 509F HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

If you would like to have a more detailed explanation of these rights or if you would like to exercise one or more of these rights, contact Catherine Welch, Privacy Officer at the telephone number listed above.

IV. Changes to this Notice of Privacy Practices

Mary Cariola Children's Center reserves the right to amend this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time in the future, and to make the new provisions effective for all information that it maintains, including information that was created or received prior to the date of such amendment. You will be notified in writing by mail about any changes made to Mary Cariola Children's Center's Notice of Privacy Practices.