

# HOUSE BILL 1468

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CF SB 584

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By: ~~Delegates Valentino-Smith, Kelly, and West~~ West, and Morales

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2017

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Medical Records – Disclosure of Directory Information and Medical Records –**  
3 **~~Mental Health Services~~**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which a health care provider may  
5 disclose a medical record developed primarily in connection with mental health  
6 services ~~to certain family members of a patient or other individuals without the~~  
7 ~~authorization of a person in interest~~; authorizing a health care provider to disclose  
8 directory information about a patient to a certain individual except under certain  
9 circumstances; requiring a health care provider to inform a patient of health care  
10 information that the health care provider may include in a certain directory and the  
11 persons to whom the information may be disclosed; requiring a health care provider  
12 to provide a patient, at a certain time, with an opportunity to restrict or prohibit the  
13 disclosure of directory information; authorizing a health care provider to disclose a  
14 patient's directory information under certain circumstances if providing an  
15 opportunity for a patient to restrict or prohibit the disclosure is not practicable for  
16 certain reasons; altering the circumstances under which a health care provider may  
17 disclose a medical record and the types of records that may be disclosed to certain  
18 family members of a patient or other individuals without the authorization of a  
19 person in interest; altering the definition of "directory information" as it relates to  
20 confidentiality of medical records to include health care information developed  
21 primarily in connection with mental health services; stating the intent of the General  
22 Assembly; and generally relating to confidentiality of directory information and  
23 medical records ~~relating to mental health services~~.

24 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Health – General  
 2 Section 4–301(a) and 4–302(c)  
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 4 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 6 Article – Health – General  
 7 Section 4–301(b) and 4–305(b)(7)  
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 9 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 11 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article – Health – General**

13 4–301.

14 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

15 (b) [(1)] “Directory information” means information concerning the presence  
 16 and general health condition of a patient who has been admitted to a health care facility or  
 17 who is currently receiving emergency health care in a health care facility.

18 [(2)] “Directory information” does not include health care information  
 19 developed primarily in connection with mental health services.]

20 4–302.

21 (c) **(1) ~~A UNLESS THE PATIENT HAS RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED THE~~**  
 22 **~~DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION, A~~ health care provider may disclose**  
 23 **~~directory information about a patient without the authorization of a person in interest,~~**  
 24 **~~except if the patient has instructed the health care provider in writing not to disclose~~**  
 25 **~~directory information~~ TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS ASKED FOR THE PATIENT BY NAME.**

26 **(2) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SHALL:**

27 **(I) INFORM A PATIENT OF THE HEALTH CARE INFORMATION**  
 28 **THAT THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER MAY INCLUDE IN A DIRECTORY AND THE**  
 29 **PERSONS TO WHOM THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER MAY DISCLOSE THE**  
 30 **INFORMATION; AND**

31 **(II) AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, PROVIDE THE PATIENT WITH**  
 32 **THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTORY**  
 33 **INFORMATION.**

1           **(3) IF PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF**  
2 **THIS SUBSECTION TO RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT THE DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTORY**  
3 **INFORMATION IS NOT PRACTICABLE BECAUSE OF THE PATIENT'S INCAPACITY OR**  
4 **NEED FOR EMERGENCY CARE OR TREATMENT, A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER MAY**  
5 **DISCLOSE THE PATIENT'S DIRECTORY INFORMATION IF THE DISCLOSURE IS:**

6           **(I) CONSISTENT WITH A PRIOR EXPRESSED PREFERENCE OF**  
7 **THE PATIENT THAT IS KNOWN TO THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER; AND**

8           **(II) DETERMINED TO BE, BASED ON THE HEALTH CARE**  
9 **PROVIDER'S PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT, IN THE PATIENT'S BEST INTEREST.**

10 4-305.

11           (b) A health care provider may disclose a medical record without the  
12 authorization of a person in interest:

13           (7) ~~Except if the patient has instructed the health care provider not to~~  
14 ~~make the disclosure, [or if the record has been developed primarily in connection with the~~  
15 ~~provision of mental health services,] to **TO** immediate family members of the patient or~~  
16 ~~any other individual with whom the patient is known to have a close personal relationship,~~  
17 ~~if made in accordance with good medical or other professional practice; **PROVIDED THAT:**~~

18           **(I) THE DISCLOSURE IS LIMITED TO INFORMATION THAT IS**  
19 **DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PATIENT'S**  
20 **HEALTH CARE; AND**

21           **(II) 1. IF THE PATIENT IS PRESENT OR OTHERWISE**  
22 **AVAILABLE BEFORE THE DISCLOSURE AND HAS THE CAPACITY TO MAKE HEALTH**  
23 **CARE DECISIONS:**

24           **A. THE PATIENT HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH AN**  
25 **OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT TO THE DISCLOSURE AND THE PATIENT HAS NOT**  
26 **OBJECTED; OR**

27           **B. THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER REASONABLY INFERS**  
28 **FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT, BASED ON THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S**  
29 **PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT, THE PATIENT DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE DISCLOSURE;**  
30 **OR**

31           **2. IF THE PATIENT IS NOT PRESENT OR OTHERWISE**  
32 **AVAILABLE BEFORE THE DISCLOSURE IS MADE, OR PROVIDING THE PATIENT WITH**  
33 **AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT TO THE DISCLOSURE IS NOT PRACTICABLE BECAUSE**  
34 **OF THE PATIENT'S INCAPACITY OR NEED FOR EMERGENCY CARE OR TREATMENT,**

1 THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES, BASED ON THE HEALTH CARE  
2 PROVIDER’S PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT, THAT THE DISCLOSURE IS IN THE BEST  
3 INTERESTS OF THE PATIENT;

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General  
5 Assembly that Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Health – General Article:

6 (1) may not to be interpreted to be more restrictive than the federal privacy  
7 regulations adopted under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act;

8 (2) is not intended to be in conflict with the federal Health Insurance  
9 Portability and Accountability Act; and

10 (3) is to be interpreted in a way that is consistent with any federal  
11 regulations adopted under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act,  
12 federal policy guidance on the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act,  
13 and any judicial decisions relating to the federal Health Insurance Portability and  
14 Accountability Act.

15 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2017.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.