

NorCal CA 516 Continuum of Care
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
Notice of Privacy Practices

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

If you have any questions about this Notice, you may contact either your service provider, or:
Shasta County Department of Housing and Community Action Programs
1450 Court Street, Suite 108, Redding, CA 96001
(530)225-5160

Your information is personal, and the NorCal CA 516 Continuum of Care is committed to protecting it. Your information is also very important to our ability to provide you with quality services, and to comply with certain laws. This notice describes the privacy practices our employees and other personnel are required to follow in handling your information.

We are legally required to: Keep your information confidential, give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your information, and comply with this notice.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to revise or change the terms of this Notice, and to apply those changes to our policies and procedures regarding your information. To obtain a copy of this notice, you can either ask any member of staff, or go to the Nor Cal Continuum of Care website at:

https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/housing_index/norcal-continuum-of-care

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR INFORMATION

For Housing: We create a record of your information, including housing services you receive at our partner agencies. We need this record to provide you with quality services and to comply with certain legal requirements.

Participating agencies may use or disclose your information to other personnel who are involved in providing services for you. For example, a housing navigator may need to know disability information to provide appropriate housing resources. Your service team may share your information in order to coordinate the different things you need, such as referrals and services.

Participating agencies may use and disclose your information to other participating HMIS agencies.

We also may use and disclose your information to recommend service options or alternatives that may be of interest to you. Additionally, we may use and disclose your information to tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you for example, Medi-Cal eligibility or Social Security benefits. You have the right to refuse this information.

For Service Collaboration: We also may use and disclose your information about you so that you do not have to provide information more than once. This sharing, only when you access one of the participating agencies, can help avoid duplication of services and referrals that you are already receiving.

USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR AUTHORIZATION

Research: Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose information about you for research purposes. For example, a research project may involve comparing your service level and of all clients who received similar services. All research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process. This process evaluates a proposed research project and its use of information, trying to balance the research needs with clients' need for privacy of their information. Before the use or disclosure of information for research purposes, any such research project must be

approved through an approval process. Aggregate information about you may be disclosed to people conducting a research project to help them identify data for clients with specific needs.

As Required By Law: We will use and disclose information when required by federal or state law or regulation.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: We may use and disclose your information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

Public Health Activities: We may disclose your information for public health activities such as to report the abuse or neglect of children, elders, and dependent adults.

Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence: We may disclose your information when notifying the appropriate government authority if we believe you have been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

Oversight Activities: We may disclose your information to an oversight agency, such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the State of California, for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities are necessary for the government to monitor government service programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

OTHER USES OF YOUR INFORMATION

Other uses and disclosures of your information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you provide us authorization to disclose your information, you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your information for the reasons covered by the authorization, except that, we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made when the authorization was in effect, and we are required to retain our records of the services that we provided to you.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Right to Inspect and Obtain Copies:

With certain exceptions, you have the right to inspect and obtain copies of your information from our records. To inspect and obtain copies of your information, you must submit a request in writing to your service provider where you received services. The request will be reviewed and responded to within three (3) business days. We reserve the right to deny your right to inspect and obtain copies of your information. If your request is denied, you may appeal this decision and request that another services professional by the Shasta County Department of Housing and Community Action Programs, who was not involved in your provision of services, review the denial.

Right to Request an Amendment:

If you feel that your information in our records is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as we keep the information. To request an amendment, you must submit a request in writing to your service provider. Your request will become part of your record.

Right to Request Restrictions:

You have the right to request that we follow additional, special restrictions when disclosing your information. To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to your service provider. In your request, you must tell us what information you want to limit, the type of limitation, and to whom you want the limitation to apply.

Right to Request Confidential Communications:

You have the right to request that we communicate with you about appointments or other matters related to your service in a specific way or at a specific location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work, or by mail at a post office box. To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing to your Agency case manager or the person in charge of your services. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

