

2010 - CONFIDENTIALITY

POLICY STATEMENT	Any information related to individual applicants and recipients of programs administered by DFCS is confidential and is governed by regulations, which specifically forbid the release of this information to unauthorized persons or agency representatives.
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS	<p>All case record material is confidential, including the names and addresses of applicants and recipients, as well as the types and amount of benefits provided.</p> <p>Refer to Section 2011, Health Information Portability and Accountability Act, for additional information regarding privacy of health information.</p> <p>Case record information may be released to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant/recipient (A/R)• the personal representative (PR)• an individual or agency if the A/R signs Form 5459, Authorization of Release of Information <p>NOTE: The county office may charge for photostatic copies of case record material.</p> <p>The following information may not be released to anyone, including the A/R:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• medical or psychiatric information marked <i>confidential</i> if the information in the record could be harmful to the A/R• information provided by an individual who has requested confidentiality• confidential information regarding pending criminal prosecution• information obtained from the IRS. <p>Penalties for release of IRS information include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, including costs of prosecution for felony disclosure,• dismissal from employment,• discharge from employment upon conviction for such offense,• civil action for damages against the taxpayer brought by that taxpayer in a district court of the United States. <p>If the A/R requests any of the above information, refer the A/R to the source of the information.</p>

PROCEDURES

Release the requested information pertinent to service delivery to the following agencies or their representatives without obtaining the A/R's permission:

- individuals directly connected with the administration of the DFCS, Child Support Program, Office of Investigation Services, MHDDAD, Division of Aging, Health and Human Services and SSA employees as necessary to assist in establishing or verifying eligibility benefits under Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act
- individuals directly connected with other federal assistance programs and federally assisted state programs providing assistance on a means tested basis to low income individuals
- persons directly connected with the administration of the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS)
- employees of the Comptroller General's Office of the United States for an audit examination.
- the current address of any fugitive felon or assistance unit (AU) member who has knowledge of the fugitive felon's whereabouts may be given to a law enforcement officer if the name and social security number (SSN) of the felon is known by the officer.
- name(s) and address(es) only of participating AU's to persons directly connected with nutrition education,
- researchers authorized in writing by the agency,
- public officials who request information in writing and the request originated from an inquiry by the AU,
- emergency situations in which the County Director, Field Director, or Division Director judges that the release is necessary to prevent loss of or risk of life or health upon approval from the State Office. Notify A/R immediately of this release.