

Notice of Privacy Practices

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

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Chief Privacy Officer.

Who Will Follow This Notice?

This notice describes Denise C. Wall, LCSW's practices and that of:

Any health care professional authorized to enter information into your service, all programs of Denise C. Wall, LCSW, any member of a volunteer group we allow to help you while you are a client with Denise C. Wall, LCSW, and all employees, staff, subcontractors and other personnel of Denise C. Wall, LCSW.

OUR PLEDGE REGARDING HEALTH AND SERVICES INFORMATION:

We understand that health and service information about you is personal. We are committed to protecting health and service information about you. We create a record of the care and services you receive at Denise C. Wall, LCSW. We need this record to provide you with quality service and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your service generated by Denise C. Wall, LCSW. This notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose health and service information about you. We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of health and service information.

We are required by law to:

Make sure that health and service information that identifies you is kept private; give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to health and service information about you; and follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose health and service information. For each category of uses or disclosures we will explain what we mean and try to give some examples. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

For Service Delivery. We may use health and service information about you to provide you with services. We may disclose health and service information about you to other staff members, technicians, students or other personnel of Denise C. Wall, LCSW who are involved in providing services to you at Denise C. Wall, LCSW. For example, a staff member providing family counseling services to you may need to know if you are receiving other services at our offices, in order to make the family counseling services more effective. The staff member may need to tell the program manager about you and your services in order to arrange for appropriate transportation. Different departments of Denise C. Wall, LCSW also may share health and service information about you in order to coordinate the different things you need, such as prescriptions, assessments, and other services. We also may disclose health and service information about you to people outside of Denise C. Wall, LCSW who may be involved in your care after you leave our offices, such as family members, clergy, or others we use to provide services that are part of your care.

For Payment. We may use and disclose health and service information about you so that the services you receive at Denise C. Wall, LCSW may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company, or third party. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about family counseling services you received at Denise C. Wall, LCSW so that your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the service. We may also tell your health plan about a service you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the service.

For Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose health and service information about you for Denise C. Wall LCSW operations. These uses and disclosure are necessary to run our offices and make sure that all of our clients receive quality services. For example, we may use health and service information to review our services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. We

may also combine health and service information about many of our clients to decide what additional services we should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new services are effective. We may also disclose information to other staff members, volunteers, students, subcontractors or other personnel for review and learning purposes. We may also combine the health and service information we have with health and service information from other organizations to compare how we are doing and to see where we can make improvements in the care and services we offer. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of health and service information so others may not use it to study services and service delivery without learning who the specific clients are.

Appointment Reminders. We may use and disclose health and service information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment for services at the offices of Denise C. Wall, LCSW.

Service Alternatives. We may use and disclose health and service information to tell you about or recommend possible service options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.

Health-Related Benefits and Services. We may use and disclose health and service information to tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you. (NOTE: This directory function may be prohibited in certain service settings.)

As Required by Law. We will disclose health and service information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may use and disclose health and service information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Military and Veterans. If you are a member of the Armed Forces, we may release health and service information about you as required by military command authorities. We may also release health and service information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.

Worker's Compensation. We may release health information about you for worker's compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Public Health Risks. We may disclose health and service information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:

To prevent or control disease, injury or disability; to report birth and death; to report child abuse or neglect; to report reactions to medications or problems with products; to notify people of recalls of products they may be using; and to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose health and service information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example:

Audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

Lawsuits and Disputes. If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health and service information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose health and service information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Law Enforcement. We may release health and service information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

In response to a court, subpoena, warrant, summons, or similar process; to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person; about the victim of a crime if, under certain limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement; about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; about criminal conduct at our offices; and in emergency circumstances to report a crime, the location of the crime or victim, or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

National Security and Intelligence Activities. We may release health and service information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

Protective Services for the President and Others. We may disclose health and service information about you to authorized federal officials so they may provide protection to the President other authorized persons, or foreign heads of state or conduct special investigations.

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HIPAA
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