

Your Privacy Rights

Richard Hall Community Health and Wellness Center

Effective February 16, 2026

We know your mental-health and substance-use information is deeply personal. This notice explains how we protect it, how we use it, and what rights you have.

Your Rights

You can:

- **See your records** and ask for a copy
- **Ask us to fix information** you think is wrong
- **Ask us to contact you in a certain way** (for example, only by email or at a different phone number)
- **Ask us not to share certain information**
- **See a list of who we shared your substance-use information with** for the last 3 years
- **Get a paper copy of this notice**
- **Choose someone to act for you** if you have a guardian or power of attorney
- **Make a complaint** if you think your privacy rights were violated

Each of these is a **patient privacy right** you can use at any time.

Your Choices

You can tell us your preferences about:

- **Sharing information with family or caregivers**
- **Sharing information with other providers**
- **How much of your substance-use information we can share**

These are **care-sharing choices** you control.

How We Use Your Information

We use your information to:

- **Provide your care**
- **Coordinate with other providers**
- **Bill your insurance**
- **Improve our services**

These are called **treatment, payment, and operations** and are allowed by law.

Special Protection for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Information

Your SUD treatment information is protected by **42 CFR Part 2**, a federal law that gives you extra privacy.

We **cannot** share your SUD information unless:

- **You sign a consent form**
- **The law allows it**
- **There is a medical emergency**
- **A court orders it**
- **We are reporting child abuse or neglect**
- **Auditors or regulators need to review our program**

Anyone who receives your SUD information **cannot share it again** unless the law allows it. This is called the **redisclosure rule**.

New Jersey Mental-Health Privacy

New Jersey law gives strong protection to your mental-health information.

We can only share it:

- With your **permission**
- With **providers involved in your care**
- If a **court orders it**
- To prevent **serious and immediate harm**
- When **New Jersey law requires it**

These are **New Jersey mental-health protections**.

If You Are a Teen (or the Parent of a Teen)

New Jersey has special rules for minors.

Teens can consent to their own:

- **Mental-health treatment** (in many cases)
- **Substance-use treatment**

When a teen consents to their own care:

- Parents **do not automatically get access** to the teen's records
- We may share information with parents **only if**:
 - The teen agrees
 - It is needed to prevent serious harm
 - The law requires it

These are **New Jersey minor-consent rules**.

Other Times We May Share Information

We may share information to:

- Follow **public-health laws**
- Work with **medical examiners**
- Respond to **workers' compensation** or **law enforcement** requests
- Prevent or reduce a **serious threat to safety**

These are **public-safety disclosures** allowed by law.

If Your Information Is Ever Breached

If your information is ever accessed in a way that could put your privacy at risk, we will **notify you right away**. This includes your **SUD information**, which now follows the same breach-notification rules as HIPAA.

This is part of your **privacy protection**.

Our Responsibilities

We must:

- **Protect your information**
- **Follow this notice**
- **Give you a copy of this notice**
- **Tell you if we can't agree to a restriction you request**
- **Follow HIPAA, 42 CFR Part 2, and New Jersey law**

These are our **legal duties**.

Part 2 Patient Notice

If you receive SUD services, you will also get a **separate federal Part 2 notice** that explains your rights under that law. You can ask for a copy at any time.

This is your **Part 2 rights summary**.

Changes to This Notice

We may update this notice. If we do, we will post the new version in our office and on our website.

Contact Us

Privacy Officer

Lida Hartfiel, Health Information and Compliance Director

Phone: 908-725-2800

Address: 500 N. Bridge Street, Bridgewater NJ 08807

Email: mentalhealth@somersetcountynj.gov

Complaints

You can file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will **never** retaliate against you.
