

Jackson County HIPAA Standards Resolution

WHEREAS, the federal privacy rule implemented under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides for standards for confidentiality of health information. The privacy rule applies to health care providers and payers for health care services, among other entities. The implementation date for the Rule is April 14, 2003.

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors has determined that Jackson County is a "hybrid entity" within the meaning of the privacy rule, which means it has certain offices or departments that are covered by the rule.

WHEREAS, Jackson County is fully committed to compliance with the federal privacy rule to the extent it is applicable to Jackson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board has determined that the following offices or departments are covered by the HIPAA privacy rule either because they provide health care or pay for health care services, or they render services to or on behalf of those offices or departments that do:

1. General Assistance
2. ~~Mental Health Department~~
3. Auditor's Office
4. Sheriff's Office
5. County Attorney's Office

These offices and departments will be considered "covered components" of Jackson County. In addition, the Board of Supervisors designates itself as covered by HIPAA to the extent that it has access to or receives confidential health information from covered components of Jackson County.

To comply with the HIPAA privacy rule and to protect and promote the confidentiality of health information of its residents, Jackson County shall:

- a. Designate a privacy officer who will report to the Board of Supervisors and who will be responsible for establishing policies and procedures as required by the HIPAA privacy rule and promoting compliance with those policies and procedures by the covered components of the County and vest the privacy officer with the appropriate authority to enforce compliance to the extent appropriate.
- b. Designate a privacy committee that will report to the Board of Supervisors and that will assist the privacy officer in establishing policies and procedures and ensuring compliance with those policies and procedures by the covered components of the County.

c. Direct the privacy officer and privacy committee to establish policies and procedures, subject to the Board's approval, to promote compliance with the HIPAA privacy rule by the covered components of the County.

d. Direct the covered departments and offices to continue to take reasonable steps to promote the privacy and security of health information protected by the federal privacy rule.

e. Promote compliance with the privacy rule through education of employees who use or disclose confidential health information.

f. From time to time take further action as required by the HIPAA privacy rule to promote confidential health information.

Further, the County shall take the necessary steps to become compliant with the final federal security rule enacted under HIPAA effective February 20, 2003 by the implementation date of the Rule in April 2005.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2003.

Attest:

T.M. Cotton  
AUDITOR

John J. Wiley  
CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS