

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**  
Interim State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

April 21, 2016

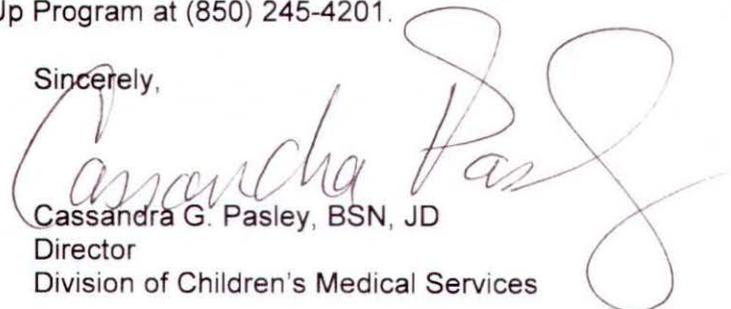
To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida Department of Health, Division of Children's Medical Services administers the Newborn Screening Program, which includes hearing, pulse oximetry, and metabolic screening. This letter provides clarification regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information as it relates to newborn screening activities described in its capacity as a public health authority. Pursuant to 45 Code of Federal Regulations §164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule, covered entities such as your organization may disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information (PHI) to public health authorities. Public health entities are authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability including, but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and for the purpose of conducting public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health intervention.

- **Per Privacy Rule 45 CFR §164.512(b), health care providers may disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information to public health authorities, such as the Newborn Screening Program without violating HIPAA.**
- Florida Statutes regarding Newborn Screening can be found in Sections 383.14 and 383.145 <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes>.
- Additional Information, provided by Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su5201a1.htm>

If you have questions or concerns about this reporting requirement, please contact Dusty Edwards, Program Director of Newborn Screening Follow-Up Program at (850) 245-4201.

Sincerely,



Cassandra G. Pasley, BSN, JD  
Director  
Division of Children's Medical Services

**Florida Department of Health**

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