

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting Policy on)
Compliance with HIPAA, Designating County)
Health Care Components, Designating a)
Privacy Officer and Contact Persons)
_____)

ORDER NO. 25-2003

WHEREAS, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and implementing regulations, benefit Columbia County residents and employees by providing greater efficiency, privacy protections, and rights to control protected health care information; and

WHEREAS, programs within certain Columbia County departments provide services covered by HIPAA, and a number of county departments and programs fall outside its scope; and

WHEREAS, designating Columbia County personnel to be assigned certain HIPAA responsibilities would help assure Columbia County's compliance with this law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. The Columbia County HIPAA Compliance Policy attached hereto, labeled Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein by this reference is hereby ADOPTED.

2. Columbia County is designated as a "hybrid covered entity" for purposes of HIPAA compliance. The Columbia County Jail is designated as the County's primary "health care component". The departments of County Counsel, Finance and Human Resources/Information Technology are designated as "business associates" performing work on the Jail's behalf which may expose them to protected healthcare information.

3. The County Counsel is designated the County Privacy Officer.

4. The Jail Manager, County Counsel, Finance Director, and Director of Human Resources/Information Technology are designated as "contact persons within the the Jail and the departments of County Counsel, Finance and Human Resources/Information Technology who are responsible for receiving complaints and who are able to provide further

information regarding HIPAA privacy procedures.

DATED this 9th day of April, 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: Joe Conacher
Chair

By: Lita M. Starnard
Commissioner

By: _____
Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: Jamie K. W.
Office of County Counsel
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EXHIBIT "A"

COLUMBIA COUNTY HIPAA COMPLIANCE POLICY

It is Columbia County's policy to support implementation of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") as applicable to health care functions and activities of certain Columbia County departments. This federal law and its implementing regulations promote patients' trust in the health care system by providing national standards protecting the privacy and security of their private health information and providing them rights to control access to such information. The uniform standards, code sets, and identifiers for carrying out administrative financial health transactions on line were designed to promote efficiency and flexibility in patients' receiving health care services and in billing and receiving payment from health plans and other payors. Members of the public and employees of Columbia County are entitled to the same benefits and protections when their protected health care information is created or received by a Columbia County department program or activity providing health care or serving as a health plan, or health care clearinghouse covered by HIPAA.