

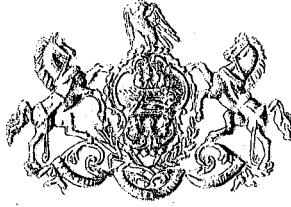
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2654

January 14, 2008

Janice Staloski, Director
Bureau of Community Program
Licensure and Certification
Department of Health
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Dear Ms. Staloski:

I am writing to vociferously **oppose** the PA Department of Health's proposed amendments to 4 Pa. Code Ch. 255.5(b) (Confidentiality of patient records and information).

These proposed changes unnecessarily diminish the precious privacy rights of patients enrolled in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

The existing regulations adequately protect patients' privacy while concomitantly allowing for the dissemination of personal information sufficient for such matters as the arbitration of health insurance claims and the adjudication of custody disputes.

I see no justifiable reason for modifying these regulations. Doing so serves only to harm patients by revealing about them information which is highly sensitive and thus potentially stigmatizing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Folmer".

MIKE FOLMER

MF:js:nb

cc: Kim Kaufman - IRRC
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
House Health and Human Services Committee

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