Northern Tier Counseling, Inc.

NTC

Recovery and Hope

#2654

Mr. Calvin B. Johnson, M.D., Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health
8th Floor West Health and Welfare Building
P.O. Box 90
Harrisburg, PA 17108

February 18, 2008

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Please accept this brief letter on behalf of my drug and alcohol treatment staff and the clients they treat. Our biggest concern is the difficulty we have getting insurance approvals/authorizations because of the restrictiveness of the 255.5(b) regulations. These regulations also make it very difficult for drug and alcohol clients to get other types of services they often require because of the limitations of what my staff can disclose. It specifically makes working with our criminal justice system very difficult.

Please know that we feel that the Federal regulations are more than appropriate, and met the true intent of protecting a client's confidentiality. The 255.5 confidentiality regulations are out dated and cause more harm then good. Please remember that those of us on the front lines truly know what's best for our clients. The current regulations truly tie our hands in being able to treat our clients in an ethically sound manner when it comes to releasing information that we know is in the best interest of our clients.

Sincerely,

Paul DeNault, MS, LPC
President / C.E.O.