

Your family's access to your health information has been severely restricted by a new Federal Law, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Under HIPAA, even spouses and adult children will be denied access to your condition by doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers without a signed consent form. Authorization to receive psychiatric information must be separately stated.

In addition, if you have done living trust planning, it is important that the disability Trustee be authorized to receive information in order for him to pay the medical bills. Doctors and hospitals are refusing to provide detailed bills unless the Trustee has been authorized to receive this information.

To deal with this change in the federal law we have amended our Advanced Directive to include a statement authorizing disclosure of medical information to all those whom you want to have access to this information.