



## HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices: For Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc.

*Effective Date: January 1, 2014*

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.  
PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact Shannon @ 404-395-4578.

### **OUR OBLIGATIONS:**

We are strongly committed to protecting your medical information. We create a medical record about your care because we need the record to provide you with appropriate treatment and to comply with various legal requirements. We transmit some medical information about your care in order to obtain payment for the services you receive, and we use certain information in our day to day operations. This Notice will let you know about the various ways we use and disclose your medical information, describe your rights and our obligations with respect to the use or disclosure of your medical information. **We will ask that you acknowledge receipt of the Notice before your first therapy treatment session because the law requires us to make a good faith effort to obtain your acknowledgement.**

We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of protected health information
- Give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding health information about you
- Follow the terms of our notice that is currently in effect

### **HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION:**

The following describes the ways your health information may be used and disclosed by your Speech Therapist, office staff and others outside of the office who are involved in your care and treatment for the purpose of providing health care services to you. Your protected health information may also be used and disclosed to pay our health care bills and to support the operation of the facility. Except for the purposes described below, we will use and disclose Health Information only with your written permission. You may revoke such permission at any time by writing to our practice Privacy Officer.

***For Treatment.*** We may use and disclose Health Information for your treatment and to provide you with treatment-related health care services. For example, we may use your health information to write an evaluation or we may disclose Health Information to Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, or Physical Therapists if requested. We may also disclose your Health Information to doctors, nurses, technicians, or other personnel, including people outside our office, including family members, who are involved in your medical care and need the information to provide you with medical care.

***For Payment.*** We may use and disclose Health Information so that we or others may bill and receive payment from you, an insurance company or a third party for the treatment and services you received. For example, we may give your health plan information about you so that they will pay for your treatment.

***For Health Care Operations.*** We may use and disclose Health Information for health care operations purposes. These uses and disclosures are necessary to make sure that all of our patients receive quality care and to operate and manage our office. We also may share information with other entities that have a relationship with you (for example, your health plan) for their health care operation activities.

**Appointment Reminders, Treatment Alternatives and Health Related Benefits and Services.** We may use and disclose Health Information to contact you to remind you that you have an appointment with us. We also may use and disclose Health Information to tell you about treatment alternatives or health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

**Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care.** When appropriate, we may share Health Information with a person who is involved in your medical care or payment for your care, such as your family or a close friend. For example, a parent or guardian may ask that a babysitter be with the child during treatment. In this example, the babysitter may have access to this child's information.

## **SPECIAL SITUATIONS:**

**As Required by Law.** We will disclose Health Information when required to do so by international, federal, state or local law.

**Communicable Diseases:** We may disclose Health Information, if authorized by law, to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading the disease or condition.

**Public Health Risks.** We may disclose Health Information for public health activities. These activities generally include disclosures to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; report births and deaths; report child abuse or neglect; report reactions to medications or problems with products; notify people of recalls of products they may be using; a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; and the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

**Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose Health Information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

**Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release Health Information as required by military command authorities. We also may release Health Information to the appropriate foreign military authority if you are a member of a foreign military.

**Workers' Compensation.** We may release Health Information for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

**Data Breach Notification Purposes.** We may use or disclose your Protected Health Information to provide legally required notices of unauthorized access to or disclosure of your health information.

**Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose Health Information in response to a court or administrative order. We also may disclose Health Information in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

**Law Enforcement.** We may release Health Information if asked by a law enforcement official if the information is: (1) in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process; (2) limited information to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person; (3) about the victim of a crime even if, under certain very limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement; (4) about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; (5) about criminal conduct on our premises; and (6) in an emergency to report a crime, the location of the crime or victims, or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

**Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may release Health Information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We also may release Health Information to funeral directors as necessary for their duties.

**National Security and Intelligence Activities.** We may release Health Information to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counter-intelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

**Protective Services for the President and Others.** We may disclose Health Information to authorized federal officials so they may provide protection to the President, other authorized persons or foreign heads of state or to conduct special investigations.

**Inmates or Individuals in Custody.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release Health Information to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be if necessary: (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) the safety and security of the correctional institution.

**Research** We may use and disclose Health Information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your protected health information.

**Your primary care and/or your referring physician.**

#### **USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT REQUIRE US TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT AND OPT**

**Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care.** Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, your Protected Health Information that directly relates to that person's involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment.

#### **YOUR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES**

The following uses and disclosures of your Protected Health Information will be made only with your written authorization:

1. Uses and disclosures of Protected Health Information for marketing purposes; and
2. Disclosures that constitute a sale of your Protected Health Information

Other uses and disclosures of Protected Health Information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you do give us an authorization, you may revoke it at any time by submitting a written revocation to our Privacy Officer and we will no longer disclose Protected Health Information under the authorization. But disclosure that we made in reliance on your authorization before you revoked it will not be affected by the revocation.

#### **YOUR RIGHTS:**

You have the following rights regarding Health Information we have about you:

**Right to Inspect and Copy.** You have a right to inspect and copy Health Information that may be used to make decisions about your care or payment for your care. This includes medical and billing records. To inspect and copy this Health Information, you must make your request, in writing, to Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc. 960 Durham Way Stockbridge, GA 30281. We have up to 30 days to make your Protected Health Information available to you and we may charge you a reasonable fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. We may not charge you a fee if you need the information for a claim for benefits under the Social Security Act or any other state or federal needs-based benefit program. We may deny your request in certain limited circumstances. If we do deny your request, you have the right to have the denial reviewed by a licensed healthcare professional who was not directly involved in the denial of your request, and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

**Right to Get Notice of a Breach.** You have the right to be notified upon a breach of any of your unsecured Protected Health Information.

**Right to Amend.** If you feel that Health Information we have is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our office. To request an amendment, you must make your request, in writing, to Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc. 960 Durham Way Stockbridge, GA 30281.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request a list of certain disclosures we made of Health Information for purposes other than treatment, payment and health care operations or for which you provided written authorization. To request an accounting of disclosures, you must make your request, in writing, to Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc. 960 Durham Way Stockbridge, GA 30281.

**Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the Health Information we use or disclose for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the Health Information we disclose to someone involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not share information about a particular diagnosis or treatment with your spouse. To request a restriction, you must make your request, in writing, to Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc. 960 Durham Way Stockbridge, GA 30281. We are not required to agree to your request unless you are asking us to restrict the use and disclosure of your Protected Health Information to a health plan for payment or health care operation purposes and such information you wish to restrict pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you have paid us "out-of-pocket" in full. If we agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment.

**Out-of-Pocket-Payments.** If you paid out-of-pocket (or in other words, you have requested that we not bill your health plan) in full for a specific item or service, you have the right to ask that your Protected Health Information with respect to that item or service not be disclosed to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations, and we will honor that request.

***Right to Request Confidential Communications.*** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you by mail or at work. To request confidential communications, you must make your request, in writing, to Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc. 960 Durham Way Stockbridge, GA 30281. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate reasonable requests.

***Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice.*** You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. You may obtain a copy of this notice via request by email: [tinytalkerstst@gmail.com](mailto:tinytalkerstst@gmail.com) or via mail.

**CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE:**

We reserve the right to change this notice and make the new notice apply to Health Information we already have as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of our current notice at our office. The notice will contain the effective date on the first page, in the top right-hand corner.

**COMPLAINTS:**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our office or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our office, contact Shannon @404-395-4578. All complaints must be made in writing. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**

Again, if you have any questions regarding this notice of our health information privacy policies, please contact Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc. 960 Durham Way Stockbridge, GEORGIA 30281. Effective Date of this notice: January 1, 2014

***Please keep for your records!***

Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc.  
960 Durham Way  
Stockbridge, GA 30281  
Phone: 404-395-4578 Fax: 404-920-3396  
[tinytalkerstst@gmail.com](mailto:tinytalkerstst@gmail.com)



### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

Please acknowledge that the Privacy Practices of *Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc.* has been received in this packet by signing below.

Parent's

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tiny Talkers Therapy Services, Inc.  
960 Durham Way  
Stockbridge, GA 30281  
Phone: 404-395-4578 Fax: 404-920-3396  
tinytalkersts@gmail.com