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# NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Twickenham Pediatrics, P.C.

Effective Date: November 1, 2025

(As Required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and applicable state law)

## 1. *Federal Law – HIPAA Privacy Rule*

- a. 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.500–164.534 – sets out the *Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information* under the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)*.
- b. Specifically:
  - i. **§164.502** – General rules for uses and disclosures of PHI.
  - ii. **§164.520** – Requires covered entities to provide patients with a Notice of Privacy Practices.
  - iii. **§164.530** – Administrative requirements, including duties to safeguard PHI and train workforce members.

## 2. *Federal Law – HIPAA Statutory Basis*

- a. 42 U.S.C. §1320d–2 and §1320d–6 – Define and protect individually identifiable health information and establish civil/criminal penalties for wrongful disclosure.

## 3. *State Law – Alabama*

While Alabama does not have a comprehensive health privacy law separate from HIPAA, it does have related confidentiality provisions that reinforce it:

- a. Ala. Code §22-21-8 – Protects the confidentiality of hospital and medical records and limits their release.
- b. Ala. Code §34-24-501 et seq. – Confidentiality provisions under the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (for physicians handling patient information).

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THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED, AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

Please read it carefully.

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## 1. OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR PRIVACY

Twickenham Pediatrics, P.C. is dedicated to protecting the privacy of your personal health information (PHI). We create records about you and your care so that we can provide treatment and maintain documentation of services received.

We are required by law to:

- Maintain the confidentiality of information that identifies you.
- Provide you with this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices.
- Abide by the terms of the Notice currently in effect.

We reserve the right to revise or amend this Notice at any time. All revisions apply to existing and future records. A current copy will be posted prominently in our office and available upon request.

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## 2. PRIVACY OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

**Melissa Washburn, Privacy Officer**  
Twickenham Pediatrics, P.C.  
115 Manning Drive SW, Suite A-101  
Huntsville, AL 35801-4341  
Phone: (256) 533-1030

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## 3. USES AND DISCLOSURES OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

### A. Treatment

We may use your PHI to provide medical treatment and coordinate your care. This includes sharing information with other health professionals involved in your treatment (e.g., consulting physicians, laboratories, pharmacies).

### B. Payment

We may use and disclose your PHI to obtain payment for services rendered, including insurance verification, billing, and collection activities.

### C. Health Care Operations

We may use and disclose your PHI for practice management activities such as quality assessment, staff training, licensure reviews, and business planning.

### D. Family and Friends Involved in Your Care

We may share your PHI with individuals involved in your care or payment for your care if you do not object or if we infer from circumstances that you do not object.

### E. Disclosures Required by Law

We will disclose your PHI when required by federal, state, or local law.

**Legal Authority:** These uses and disclosures are permitted under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.501–164.512, and applicable Alabama confidentiality laws (Ala. Code § 22-21-8).

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## 4. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR DISCLOSURE

We may use or disclose your PHI for the following purposes when authorized or required by law:

- **Public Health Activities** (e.g., reporting communicable diseases, births, deaths, product recalls).
- **Health Oversight Agencies** for audits, inspections, licensure, and compliance activities.
- **Judicial and Administrative Proceedings** pursuant to court orders or lawful process.
- **Law Enforcement** purposes (e.g., locating suspects, reporting crime victims).

- **Serious Threats to Health or Safety** to prevent harm to you or others.
- **Military, National Security, and Protective Services** when required by authorized officials.
- **General “Required by Law”** when required by any applicable federal, state, or local law.

**Legal Authority:** These disclosures are permitted under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, 45 C.F.R. §164.512(a)–(k), and applicable Alabama confidentiality law (Ala. Code §22-21-8).

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## 5. NEW PROTECTIONS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INFORMATION (2024 HIPAA AMENDMENTS)

In accordance with the 2024 HHS Privacy Rule amendments, Twickenham Pediatrics, P.C. will not use or disclose PHI for the purpose of investigating or imposing liability on any person for seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating **lawful reproductive health care**. Examples include care relating to fertility, pregnancy, contraception, or miscarriage management.

Requests for PHI related to reproductive health may require a signed **attestation** confirming that the information will not be used for unauthorized purposes.

**Legal Authority:** These protections are grounded in HHS/OCR’s Final Rule “HIPAA Privacy Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy,” effective June 25, 2024 (compliance deadline December 23, 2024).

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## 6. SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RECORDS (42 CFR PART 2)

If your care includes substance use disorder treatment records subject to 42 CFR Part 2, these records receive additional federal protection. Such information will not be shared without your specific written authorization, except as permitted or required by law (e.g., in a medical emergency, for approved research, or pursuant to a court order).

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## 7. YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PHI

You have the right to:

1. **Request Confidential Communications** at specific locations or by specific methods.
2. **Request Restrictions** on certain uses or disclosures of your PHI (we may decline if not required by law).
3. **Inspect and Obtain Copies** of your records (except psychotherapy notes); reasonable fees may apply.
4. **Request Amendments** to correct or complete your records.
5. **Receive an Accounting of Disclosures** made outside treatment, payment, or operations.
6. **Receive a Paper Copy** of this Notice upon request.
7. **File a Complaint** without fear of retaliation if you believe your privacy rights have been violated.
8. **Authorize Other Uses and Disclosures** in writing; you may revoke authorization at any time.

**Legal Authority:** These rights are established under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, 45 C.F.R. §§164.520–164.528, and related federal provisions. Additional state protections apply under Ala. Code §22-21-8.

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## 8. RELEASE OF INFORMATION & CONSENT FOR MINORS

*(Alabama Law – Effective October 1, 2025, per SB 101 (Act 2025-455))*

Under the laws of the State of Alabama, including the amendments brought by SB 101 (2025):

- A minor may **not** independently consent to most medical, dental, or mental health services unless they are **16 years of age or older**, or otherwise emancipated, married, pregnant, a high-school graduate, or living independently apart from a parent or guardian. (Ala. Code § 22-8-4 (as amended by Act 2025-455, § 1))
- Except as allowed by law (for example, treatment for pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, alcohol or drug dependency, or other reportable diseases), minors younger than 16 must have parental or legal-guardian consent for services. (Ala. Code § 22-8-6 (unchanged but reaffirmed by Act 2025-455))
- If a minor aged 16 or older (or meeting the above criteria) gives valid consent, the practice may release or share health information consistent with applicable law; for minors younger than 16, parent/guardian access and decision-making will apply unless otherwise provided by law.
- Parents or legal guardians retain the right to make health-care decisions and to access their child's records, unless restricted by court order or law (e.g., child abuse investigation). (Ala. Code § 22-8-12 (added by Act 2025-455, § 3) & Ala. Code § 22-8-13 (added by Act 2025-455, § 4))
- In emergencies or other authorized exceptions, Twickenham Pediatrics, P.C. may provide care without parental consent when necessary to protect the minor's life or health. (Ala. Code § 22-8-9 (reaffirmed by Act 2025-455))
- This policy is aligned with current Alabama law and will be updated as future legislation requires.

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## 9. QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS

If you have questions about this Notice, contact our Privacy Officer listed below.

### **Melissa Washburn, Privacy Officer**

Twickenham Pediatrics, P.C.  
115 Manning Drive SW, Suite A-101  
Huntsville, AL 35801-4341  
Phone: (256) 533-1030

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our Privacy Officer or directly with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.

### **Office for Civil Rights (OCR)**

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
**Voice:** (800) 368-1019  
**TDD:** (800) 537-7697  
**Website:** <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints>

Complaints must be filed in writing, either through the OCR Complaint Portal online or by mail, within 180 days of the alleged violation (extensions may be granted for good cause).