



Polk County Health Services, Inc. New Release

Notice of HIPAA Breach

CONTACT

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For Immediate Release – April 13, 2018

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended (“HIPAA”) requires that Polk County Health Services, Inc., provide notice to the publications of record for Polk County if Polk County Health Services, Inc. discovers a breach of electronic protected health and personal information affecting 500 or more individuals in that state or jurisdiction. Polk County Health Services, Inc. believes that such a breach occurred. Please consider this notice, as described below.

The breach occurred from June 1, 2014 to January 11, 2018. During this period, Polk County Health Services, Inc. accidentally and unknowingly disseminated personal and protected health information of individuals who have received services at the Crisis Observation Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Polk County Health Services, Inc. became aware of the potential breach on February 14, 2018.

Polk County Health Services, Inc. functions as the regional administrator and the governing board for mental health and disability services on behalf of Polk County, Iowa under the Polk County Regional Mental Health and Disability Services Management Plan. The Crisis Observation Center provides mental health services for Polk County residents.

Polk County Health Services, Inc. has investigated the breach and determined the information disclosed and recipients of the information. Polk County Health Services, Inc. has taken action to mitigate further dissemination of the information. The information unknowingly disclosed includes: full name, home address, Social Security number, Medicaid identification number, date of admission to the Crisis Observation Center and discharge location. Polk County Health Services, Inc. does not have evidence the information was improperly used.

Polk County Health Services, Inc. is committed to protecting health and personal information from unauthorized disclosure and access. To protect against further breaches, Polk County Health Services, Inc., with assistance from Polk County, Iowa, has added computer security protections and protocols and has educated Polk County Health Services, Inc.'s workforce about the importance of maintaining health privacy.

To those individual(s) who believe they may be affected, Polk County Health Service, Inc. recommends that you take immediate steps to protect yourself from potential identity theft. This may include registering a fraud alert with the following three credit bureaus:

- Experian: (888) 397-3742; www.experian.com; PO Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013;
- TransUnion: (800) 680-7289; www.transunion.com; Fraud Victim Assistance Division, PO Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790;
- Equifax: (800) 525-6285; www.equifax.com; PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241;
- Ordering your free credit report from all three credit bureaus online: <http://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp>;
- Order by telephone: 1-877-322-8228;
- Monitoring your financial and health account statements and credit bureau reports.

Polk County Health Services, Inc. will provide, at no cost to those affected individual(s) free credit monitoring for twelve (12) months if desired.

Please contact the following to ask questions or learn additional information:

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