

Gary B. Southerland D.D.S.
STATEMENT OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

We are dedicated to protect the privacy rights of our patients and the confidential information entrusted to us. The commitment of each employee to ensure that your health information is never compromised is a principle concept of our practice. We may, from time to time, amend our privacy policies and practices but will always inform you of any changes that might affect your rights.

Protecting Your Personal Healthcare Information

We use and disclose the information we collect from you only as allowed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. This includes issues relating to your treatment, payment, and our dental care operations. You may give written authorization for us to disclose your information to anyone you choose, for any purpose but it will never otherwise be given to anyone – even family members – without your written consent.

Our offices and electronic systems are secure from unauthorized access and our employees are trained to make certain that the confidentiality of your records is always protected. Our privacy policy and practices apply to all current and former patients, so you can be confident that your protected health information will never be improperly disclosed or released.

Collecting Protected Health Information

We will only request personal information needed to provide our standard of quality dental care, implement payment activities, conduct normal dental practice operations and comply with the law. This may include your name, address, telephone number(s), Social Security number, employment data, medical history, health records, etc. While most of the information will be collected from you, we may obtain information from third parties if it is deemed necessary. Regardless of the source, the information will always be protected to the full extent of the law.

Disclosure of your Protected Health Information

As stated above, we may disclose information as required by law. This includes issues in which we reasonably believe you may be a victim of abuse, neglect, domestic violence or other crimes. We are also obligated to provide information to law enforcement officials under certain circumstances. We will not use your information for marketing purposes without your written consent.

We may use and/or disclose your health information to communicate reminders about your appointments including voicemail messages, answering machines, and postcards.

Patient Rights

You have a right to get copies of your healthcare information; to obtain copies in a variety of formats; and to a list of instances in which we, or our business associates, have disclosed your protected information for uses other than stated above. We may charge for your copies in an amount allowed by law. If you believe your rights have been violated, we urge you to notify us immediately. You can, also, notify the U.S. Department of Human Services.

We thank you for being a patient at our practice. Please let us know if you have any questions concerning your privacy rights and the protection of your personal health information.