



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

May 6, 1993

Effective Date: June 15, 1993

COMMISSIONER'S POLICY STATEMENT NO. 26

ACCESS TO PATIENT RECORDS BY NON-STATE PERSONNEL

Section 52-146f provides in subsection (1) that: "Communications or records may be disclosed to other persons engaged in the diagnosis or treatment of the patient or may be transmitted to another mental health facility to which the patient is admitted for diagnosis or treatment if the psychiatrist in possession of the communications or records determines that the disclosure or transmission is needed to accomplish the objectives of diagnosis or treatment. The patient shall be informed that the communications or records will be so disclosed or transmitted. For purposes of this subsection, persons in professional training are to be considered as engaged in the diagnosis or treatment of the patients."

It shall be the policy of the Department of Mental Health that patient records may be disclosed to persons involved in the planning, care and treatment of patients about to be discharged whenever the treating psychiatrist determines that such disclosure or transmission is needed to accomplish the objectives of diagnosis or treatment of the patient. Representatives from a community outpatient facility may review the patient's record to determine what type of treatment is most appropriate in that facility.

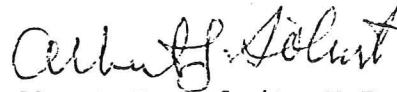
Once a plan has been finalized, the patient's records may be transmitted to the facility which will be responsible for the care of the patient.

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Prior to any such disclosure or transmission, the patient shall be informed by the treating psychiatrist that disclosure or transmission is going to take place. The psychiatrist shall note in the patient's record that the patient was so informed, specifically stating the date s/he was informed and what information was provided the patient.



Albert J. Solnit, M.D.
Commissioner

This directive replaces Commissioner's Policy Statement No. 26 dated November 1, 1983.