



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Jared Hoy

RE: Personal Health Information Breach Notice

On Sept. 16, 2025, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) became aware of a breach of certain protected health information (PHI) involving a Person in Our Care (PIOC). The date of the breach has been identified as July 17, 2025.

On July 17, 2025, the DOC impermissibly released some of your personal health information to a third-party/state agency office located in Kenosha, WI, in response to a public records request received April 17, 2025.

The DOC record released to the public records requestor was a Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) Bureau of Health Services (BHS) Chapter 980 Special Purpose Evaluation database. This database contained the names of all Persons in Our Care (PIOC) who were evaluated by a DOC psychologist to determine if they should be referred to the state for commitment under Wis. Ch. 980. Your name was included in this record.

The database contained protected health information (PHI) which should have been redacted from the document prior to its release to the state agency office. The specific PHI disclosed was a set of mental health diagnoses and diagnostic test scores from Special Purpose Evaluations dating back to 1966, with most of the evaluations being completed between 1999 and early 2021.

Your PHI was disclosed to an unauthorized third party without your written permission. That is a violation of HIPAA and under HIPAA's Breach Notification Rule, DOC is required to notify you when a violation of this nature has occurred.

Once the breach was discovered, DOC took actions to ensure the third party/state agency permanently deleted the document from its computers and files. The state agency has confirmed in writing that it deleted the original record it received on July 17, 2025.

The DOC has taken the following steps to protect your personal information:

- DAI Legal Custodians and Bureau of Records Management Public Records staff have implemented safeguards to ensure all DOC records responsive to a public records request are thoroughly reviewed for PHI prior to their release, and that no PHI is disclosed without proper redactions or written patient authorization.
- DOC will report this incident to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- The DOC will comply with any and all federal and state requirements relating to the disclosed PHI.

The DOC apologizes for any inconvenience this situation may cause; your privacy is very important to us and we will continue to monitor this situation. You may contact us with questions and concerns by addressing a letter to our postal address; PO Box 7925, 3099 East Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53704. ATTN: HIPAA Privacy Officer.

Sincerely,

Linda Eggert
WI DOC HIPAA Privacy Officer