

Department of State Hospitals - Coalinga
24511 W. Jayne Avenue
Coalinga, California 93210
www.dsh.ca.gov



August 30, 2021

Reference #ISO01432

Mr.
CO#
Unit

Dear Mr. ,

Notice of Data Breach

What Happened? We are writing to you because of a recent privacy incident that was discovered on or around August 12, 2021, at the Department of State Hospitals – Coalinga (DSH-C). A DSH-C employee had been providing DSH-C patient rosters to the United States District Court, Eastern District of California (the District Court) at the request of the District Court so that the District Court Clerk could determine whether patients were eligible for a waiver of their filing fees when filing a lawsuit. Although the information in the roster contained more information than was needed, including information regarding patients who never filed any lawsuits, there is no evidence that the information on the roster was used for any purpose apart from the District Court Clerk making an eligibility determination for a public benefit provided by the Court.

What information was involved? The DSH-C roster provided to the District Court contained your name, case number, birth date, legal commitment, admission date, unit number, and gender. The information did not contain other information, such as your Social Security number, Driver’s License number, or financial account numbers which could expose you to identity theft.

What we are doing: We regret that this incident occurred. After discovering the error, DSH-C took immediate action to limit the exposure of your information by contacting the District Court Clerk to destroy any and all DSH-C patient rosters that have been provided to the District Court by DSH. Additionally, any procedures the staff follow regarding patient records will be reviewed and revised to provide DSH staff with further clarity, education, and awareness regarding data protection.

“Caring Today for a Safe and Healthy Tomorrow”

DSH has identified, and is notifying, you, as an individual whose Protected Health Information (PHI) was provided to the District Court, which is why you are receiving this letter. In addition, DSH-C has reported this breach to the California Office of Information Security, the California Highway Patrol, the U.S. Health and Human Services/Office of Civil Rights, the California Department of Public Health, the California Department of Justice, and the California Office of Health Information Integrity.

What you can do: Keep a copy of this notice for your records in case of future problems with your medical records. You may also want to request a copy of your medical records from DSH-C, to serve as a baseline by submitting the DSH 6406 form to your treatment team. If you are no longer a patient at DSH-C, you may mail the form to the Health Information Management Department, Department of State Hospitals – Coalinga, PO Box 5000, Coalinga, CA 93210.

Other Important Information: Enclosed is a copy of “Breach Help – Consumer Tips from the California Attorney General” for your review.

For more information: If you have additional questions about this breach, please call (833) 573-2641, or visit [Breach Notice Website]. DSH’s website (https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Breach_Notice_Coalinga.html) will have this notice along with a copy of Frequently Asked Questions, which is also enclosed with this Notice. You may also e-mail us with questions at DSHCSHPrivacyOfficer@dsh.ca.gov. Please do not include your social security number or medical information in an e-mail to DSH.

You may also contact your Patients’ Rights Advocate, Jodie Keasler, at (559) 934-3861, or the Patients’ Rights Assistant, Garrett Stipe, at (559) 476-2027.

For information about your medical privacy rights, you may visit the website of the California Department of Justice, Privacy Enforcement and Protection at <https://oag.ca.gov/privacy>.

Agency Contact: Should you need any further information about this incident, please contact me at (833) 573-2641 or in writing to the attention of the Health Information Management Department.

Sincerely,

Ambrocio Hernandez, AGPA, Privacy Officer
Department of State Hospitals – Coalinga
24511 W Jayne Avenue
Coalinga, CA 93210

https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Breach_Notice_Coalinga.html

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Enclosures:

- Breach Help – Consumer Tips from the California Attorney General;
- DSH 6406 – Request for Patients Records
- Frequently Asked Questions