

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Your Health Care Information - Protecting Your Privacy

It is your right as a patient to be informed of the privacy practices of your healthcare provider as well as your privacy rights with respect to your personal health information. This Notice of Privacy Practices is intended to provide you with this information.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery's Responsibilities

It is your right as a patient to be informed of Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery's legal duties with respect to the protection of the privacy of your personal health information.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery is required to:

Maintain the privacy of your health information;

Provide you with a notice of the legal duties and privacy practices regarding protected health information collected and maintained about you; and

Abide by the terms of this notice.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery reserves the right to change the terms of the notice of privacy practices and make the new notice provisions effective for all protected health information that it maintains. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery also reserves the right to change the terms of its notice with respect to any applicable more limited uses and disclosures.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery will promptly revise and distribute its notice whenever a substantial change to any of its privacy practices are made. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery will not use or disclose your health information without your authorization, except as described in this notice.

Your Health Information Rights

You have the right to:

Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your health information

You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of protected health information, even if the restriction affects your treatment or Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery's payment or health care operation activities. However, Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery is not required to agree to your requested restriction. For example, if you are an employee of the clinic and you receive health care services in the clinic, you may request that your health care record not be maintained in the general record filing area.

Receive Confidential Communications

You have the right to request that Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery communicate your health information to you by alternative means or at alternative locations. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery shall accommodate reasonable requests. For example, you may request to be contacted at a phone number that is different from the phone number listed in your health care record.

Inspect and obtain a copy of your health record

You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your health care record. This request for access to your health care record must be in writing submitted to designated Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery personnel. This right may not apply to certain types of psychotherapy notes. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may charge you a reasonable fee for a copy of your health care record.

Amend your health record

You have the right to request an amendment to your health care record if you believe your health information is incorrect or incomplete. You may be asked to make this request in writing and state the reason why your health record should be changed. If Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery did not create the health information you believe is incorrect or if Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery disagrees with you, Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may deny your request. For example, if you believe that information in your medical history is incorrect, such as your birth date, you may request that this information be amended.

Obtain a paper copy of the notice upon request

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of the notice upon request. For example, if you received the notice electronically, you may request that Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery provide a paper copy of the notice.

Uses and Disclosures for Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery is permitted by the federal privacy rule to use or disclose your protected health information for treatment, payment or health care operations.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your health information for treatment

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your health information in the provision, coordination or management of your health care.

Example: Your information may be disclosed from one physician to another if they are consulting each other in relation to your care and treatment.

Example: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use your health information to provide you with an appointment reminder.

Example: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may send you information about treatment alternatives or other health related services that may be of interest to you.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your health information for payment

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your health information to obtain reimbursement for the provision of health care services. The bill may include information that identifies you, your diagnosis and your treatment.

Example: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your information to your insurer to obtain payment for the provision of health care services.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your health information for routine health care operations

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your health information for evaluation of patient care services, evaluating the performance of health care providers, activities relating to compliance with the law and business planning and development.

Example: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may review your health record to determine the efficiency of the services provided to you in the emergency room.

Example: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may contact you as part of a fundraising activity sponsored by your health care provider.

Uses or Disclosures of Your Protected Health Information Permitted Without Your Authorization

Without your written authorization, Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your health information for the following purposes:

As Required by Law:

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose protected health information to the extent that the use or disclosure is required by law and the use or disclosure complies with and is limited to the relevant requirements of the law. Uses or disclosures required by federal privacy rule and limited by the more protective requirements of state law include the following:

Disclosures about victims of elderly or child abuse;
Disclosures for judicial and administrative proceedings; or
Disclosures for law enforcement purposes.

Public health: As required by law, Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information to the State of Alabama for the purpose of statutory reporting.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information excluding mental health, alcohol or drug abuse or developmental disability or HIV test result to a state or federal public health agency for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information excluding your HIV test result without your authorization to a county agency investigating child abuse.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information excluding mental health, alcohol or drug abuse or developmental disability or HIV test result without your authorization to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your HIV test result without your authorization to a person that may have sustained a contact that carries a potential for transmission of HIV.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information that is reasonably related to a work related illness or injury if an application for workers' compensation has been filed.

Victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose health information except for an HIV test result if Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery reasonably believes that an individual is a victim of child or elderly abuse.

Health oversight activities: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery will not disclose HIV test results to health care oversight agencies without an authorization. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your mental health, alcohol or drug abuse or developmental disability related health information to the Department of Health and Family Services, to the county for coordination of human services and to a representative of the board on aging and long-term care. The remainder of your protected health information may be disclosed without your authorization to a state or federal agency.

Judicial and Administrative Proceedings: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information in response to a court order. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information in response to a subpoena if

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery is a party to a court action, Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery has received your authorization to disclose and has not complied within two business days or Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery failed to respond to a request for workers' compensation records. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information excluding mental health, alcohol or drug abuse or developmental disability or HIV test result in response to a subpoena from a state or federal agency.

Law enforcement: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information except for HIV test results to county law enforcement officials for the reporting and investigation of elderly and/or child abuse. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information except for mental health, alcohol or drug abuse or developmental disability or HIV test results to state and federal law enforcement officials. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose mental health, alcohol or drug abuse or developmental disability protected health information for limited law enforcement purposes as required by law. Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information to a law enforcement official in response to a court order.

For activities related to death:

Coroner or Medical Examiner: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your protected health information that is not an HIV test result or related to mental health, alcohol or drug abuse and developmental disability to a coroner or medical examiner.

Funeral Director: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your HIV test result a funeral director.

For cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation purposes: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your HIV test result to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of cadaveric organs, eyes or tissue for the purpose of facilitating organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.

Research: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may use or disclose your protected health information for research purposes if the researcher has obtained your permission or fulfilled the stringent privacy requirements of state and federal law.

To avoid a serious threat to health or safety: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose your protected health information under limited circumstances to law enforcement officials to avert a serious threat to health or safety.

Disclosures for specialized government functions: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose protected health information excluding mental health, alcohol or drug abuse or developmental disability or HIV test result for national security, for protection of the President and for medical suitability determination of Armed Forces personnel to a state or federal agency.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose protected health information to limited staff of a correctional institution or a custodial law enforcement official for the provision of health care and the transport of inmates.

Workers compensation: Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery may disclose protected health information reasonably related to a workers' compensation injury.

Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery has attempted to explain with this notice the circumstances where state law may be more protective than the federal privacy rule and provides greater privacy protection.

Except for the situations listed above and treatment, payment or health care operation purposes, the use or disclosure of your health information requires Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery to obtain your written authorization. You may withdraw your authorization in writing at any time by submitting your written withdrawal to Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery's Privacy Officer.

Patient Complaint Process

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation against you for filing a complaint.

To file a complaint with Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery please contact the Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery's Privacy Officer who will provide you with the necessary assistance.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your privacy rights or the information in this notice, please contact the Privacy Officer below:

Jeffery L. Walding
Southern Institute of Plastic Surgery
2800 Ross Clark Circle Suite 2
Dothan, Alabama 36301
334-699-7477