


**Information
SHARING**

“Sharing Personal or Health Information to Avert or Minimize Risk of Harm”

Amendments to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Health Information Act

For your reference
- here are valuable
links:

- *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*
[[FOIP Act](#)]

FOIP Help Desk:

Monday to Friday
8:15AM - 4:30PM
foiphelpdesk@gov.ab.ca
780.427.5848
(toll free 310-0000
then 780-427-5848)

- *Health Information Act*
[[HIA](#)]

HIA Help Desk:

Monday to Friday
8:15AM - 4:30PM
hiahelpdesk@gov.ab.ca
780-427-8089
(toll free 310-0000
then 780.427.8089)

- *Personal Information Protection Act*
[[PIPA](#)]

What:

✓ Amendments have been made to the information sharing provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act)*¹, and the *Health Information Act (HIA)*² to support the goals set out in the *Children First Act (CFA)*.

When:

✓ The information sharing provisions were proclaimed on January 1, 2014.

Why:

✓ The amendments to the FOIP Act and HIA support the purposes of the CFA by ensuring personal or health information can be disclosed where necessary to avert or minimize harm to a minor. Public bodies, service providers and custodians of information will be able to share personal or health information as needed when case planning to support the health and safety of a minor. The amendments set out the appropriate threshold for public bodies or custodians to use when determining when information can be disclosed.

How:

✓ Section 40(1)(ee)(i) of the FOIP Act allows personal information to be disclosed if, based on reasonable grounds, the disclosure will avert or minimize a risk of harm to the health or safety of a minor. Likewise, section 35(1)(m)(i) of the HIA allows health information to be disclosed under the same circumstances.

✓ Prior to these amendments, the determination of imminent danger to the health or safety of any person, including minors, was required before personal or health information could be disclosed. For minors, there is no longer a need for there to be imminent danger. The threshold of “imminent danger” remains unchanged for all other persons.

Where can I find more information?

✓ Online training and resources for the CFA are being developed. Visit infosharing.alberta.ca for more information.

¹ S.40(1)(ee)(i); *CFA Disclosure of s.14.*

² s.35(1)(m)(i); *CFA Disclosure of Information Regulation, s.15.*