

HIPAA E-ALERT

HIPAA & PSQIA Subpoena Authority Delegated To Office of Civil Rights

Monday, April 16, 2007

The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) has delegated to the Director of its Office for Civil Rights (OCR) the authority to issue subpoenas in investigations of alleged violations of the HIPAA Privacy Rule and of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. The delegation streamlines and strengthens the investigatory authority of OCR to investigate suspected violations of these laws. HHS published notice of this delegation in today's Federal Register

Today's notice is only the latest in a series of recent developments and guidance relating to the HIPAA compliance obligations of HIPAA-covered entities. Additional information about other recent selected developments and other HIPAA compliance resources is available at Cynthiastamer.com

For specific information about your organization's specific responsibilities under HIPAA, information about privacy officer and other risk management training programs, or other related matters, please contact Ms. Stamer or other suitably qualified legal counsel.

We hope that this information is useful to you. If you have questions about HIPAA or other matters affecting covered entities and their operations, for other helpful agency links and materials, to request publications, information about upcoming programs, or for inquiries about other matters, please contact: Cynthia Marcotte Stamer, P.C., Member, Glast, Phillips & Murray, P.C., 2200 One Galleria Tower, 13355 Noel Road, LB 48, and Dallas, Texas 75240. Telephone (972) 419-7188. E-mail cstamer@gpm-law.com.

For other helpful resources and information about data security and HIPAA, employee benefits and human resources matters, go to CynthiaStamer.com or contact Ms. Stamer. If you or someone else you know would like to receive future Alerts or announcements about other developments, publications or programs, please be sure that we have your current contact information – including your preferred e-mail – by registering on our website at cynthiastamer.com or by providing that information to us via telephone, fax or e-mail using the above contact information.

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