



March 17, 2020

INFORMATION

COUNCIL ON SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT

**Office for Civil Rights' Notification of Enforcement Discretion concerning good faith provision of telehealth during the COVID-19 emergency**

Effective March 17, 2020: The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for enforcing certain regulations issued under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, to protect the privacy and security of protected health information, namely the HIPAA Privacy, Security and Breach Notification Rules (the HIPAA Rules). OCR will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose penalties for noncompliance with the regulatory requirements under the HIPAA Rules against covered health care providers in connection with the good faith provision of telehealth during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency.

Please read the entire OCR Notification of Enforcement Discretion at <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html>.

---

The Council on Sex Offender Treatment is an independent licensing board administratively attached to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The Council, as an independent entity, maintains a management structure and decision-making authority separate from HHSC. This message is an official communication from the Council on Sex Offender Treatment.