

## CONFIDENTIALITY

**Standard:** Every project must assure client confidentiality and provide safeguards for individuals against the invasion of personal privacy, as required by the Privacy Act. No information obtained by the project staff about individuals receiving services may be disclosed without the individuals written consent, except as required by law or as necessary to provide services to the individual, with appropriate safeguards for confidentiality. Information may otherwise be disclosed only in summary, statistical, or other form that does not identify the individual (2001 Federal Guidelines: Part I Section 5.2, page 5).

Part II, section 8.7, page 25 of the 2001 federal Title X guidelines requires projects to assure that the counseling sessions for adolescents are confidential and, if follow-up is necessary, every attempt will be made to assure the privacy of the individuals. However, counselors must encourage family participation in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and provide counseling to minors on resisting attempts to coerce them into engaging in sexual activities. Title X projects may not require written consent of parents or guardians for the provision of core required family planning services to minors. Nor can the project notify parents or guardians before or after a minor has requested and received Title X core required family planning services.

