

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**  
**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**



**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC INFORMATION

**POLICY NO. 150**

---

**PURPOSE::** To outline the Department's position regarding Public Information activities.

**POLICY::** The Department shall maintain full cooperation with community groups and news media in disseminating information on health matters vital to the public interest and in assisting news media in developing sources of information within the Department to permit accurate reporting on health issues.

This policy recognizes the obligation of safeguarding the privacy and rights of patients within County medical facilities, while at the same time assuring that news organizations receive information to which they are entitled.

The Department is often called upon by the Board of Supervisors to explain a subject which has received media attention. The prompt notification of media contact on non-routine matters to the Department's Public Information Officer will assure that the Director is aware of matters being considered by media personnel.

**GUIDE::** Release of information of patients in hospitals shall be consistent with the principles adopted by the California Hospital Association.

---

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Nov 24, 1975

**SUPERCEDES:**

**APPROVED:** Signature on File

---