

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



SUBJECT: PATIENTS" PROPERTY

POLICY NO. 850

PURPOSE:: To protect the individual rights of patients being treated by the Department in County hospital facilities.

POLICY:: The Department shall protect the personal property of patients admitted to County hospital facilities for emergency or other treatment. Property of the patient shall be released to the patient upon discharge from the hospital. Relatives and other parties may not obtain personal property without the express permission of the patient.

The Department shall not allow persons or agencies to impinge upon the patient's civil right to protect personal property without due process of law. Police agencies requesting the release of personal property must first present an authorized Subpoena Duces Tecum or must obtain the patient's permission for such release.

Release of patient property without appropriate court order or without the patient's express permission is a violation of law and such action may make employees, the Department, and the County subject to civil liability.

Employees violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action. Employees shall report any incidents involving violation of this policy to their supervisors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Nov 24, 1975

SUPERCEDES:

APPROVED: Signature on File
