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**ATLANTA PRIVATE PSYCHIATRY**

**PATIENT PRIVACY PROTECTION ADVISORY**  
(Notice of Non-Participation in Government Medical Records Program)

Atlanta Private Psychiatry has chosen to remain a non-covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) that went into effect in October, 2002. By choosing to be a "non-covered entity" and not filing a compliance program with the government, we are better able to protect the confidentiality of your medical record.

If we agreed to participate, we would have to comply with more than 3,000 pages of Federal laws and regulations that decide how and when your private medical files are used, as well as who has access to them. This would be done without your permission and you would only have a chance to read a statement of general ways your records might be used, rather than requiring your consent for their use.

The HIPAA standards enable a nationwide, centralized database of medical records accessible to government agencies, marketers, researchers and many private entities whose interests may conflict with the best interests of patients. Information in your medical record could potentially be used against you, for example to ration your care or even to prosecute you. In addition, it is not possible to protect confidentiality once records are in a networked computer, no matter how many rules are in force.

Our practice will not participate in the entry of your private data into this database. Your records will be released only with your written consent, except as may be specifically required by law.

We will continue to make the trust of our patients our highest priority.

Dr. Rivers-Bulkeley  
Atlanta, GA