



F09-01-MS

Hospital Withholds Staff Signature Sheets

A man concerned about the quality of his treatment during a series of hospitalizations asked the hospital for copies of his health records. The hospital withheld only copies of sheets routinely signed by staff to record their signatures to create a running record of staff interactions with patients.

In responding to access requests, hospitals sometimes apply section 19 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to sever information the release of which might threaten the safety of medical personnel. In this case, the hospital agreed with us that any risks associated with releasing the sheets of staff names and signatures were non-existent or minimal and agreed to release them in their entirety.

The applicant subsequently realized that he had not received a signature sheet for one of the periods that he was in the hospital. The hospital had not identified the sheet as being withheld as it was missing. When a search failed to locate it, the hospital agreed to recreate the missing record from other sources of the information and give it to the applicant.