



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

DATE: November 21, 2008
TO: All Interested Parties
FROM: Janet Olszewski
Director *Janet Olszewski*
Re: Grant of Authority to Conduct Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

This memo serves to document the grant of authority from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) for you to conduct the public health activities described here. The MDCH is permitted under the Public Health Code to “authorize a local health department to exercise a power or function of the department where not otherwise prohibited by law or rule.” MCL 333.2235. The MDCH may also “[e]nter into an agreement, contract, or arrangement with ... persons necessary or appropriate to assist the department in carrying out its duties and functions.” MCL 333.2226. Therefore, this memorandum provides authorization for the local FIMR project staff to obtain protected health information from covered entities on the MDCH’s behalf, for the purpose of public health investigation of fetal and infant deaths. The records required pertain to an infant who has died.

MDCH grants this authority to _____ for purposes of participating in the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) project as outlined below. Further, MDCH considers this to be an investigation of the causes of mortality, for which disclosure of protected health information by covered entities is authorized by 45 CFR 164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule.

To conduct this public health surveillance project, local FIMR project staff will gather information from birth and death certificates, medical records, and autopsy reports. The local FIMR project staff has agreed to follow the guidelines of the statewide project, to use standardized forms, to provide data to the department for analysis, to participate in ongoing technical assistance from the state coordinator, and to attend monthly FIMR network meetings to assure ongoing program integrity. The information being requested represents the minimum necessary to carry out the public health purposes of the project pursuant to 45 CFR 164.514(d) of the Privacy Rule.

I appreciate your cooperation in this public health endeavor to further promote and protect the health and well being of women, infants, and families in Michigan. For more information about the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Program, you may contact Rosemary Fournier, State FIMR Program Coordinator, at 517/335-8416 or fournier1@michigan.gov.

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