



Refuse to Sign the HIPAA Acknowledgement Statement

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You **do not** have to sign the HIPAA form. This document shows you how to refuse.

NO LAW requires you to sign the HIPAA *Acknowledgement Statement of the Notice of Privacy Practices*, which many wrongly believe protects their medical privacy. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) website explains: “**The law does not require you to sign the ‘acknowledgement of receipt of the notice.’**” If you are forced to sign the form to receive care, you have the right to file a complaint with the HHS Office of Civil Rights: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html>. If refusal to sign leads to denial of treatment, you have **three options**: NEGOTIATE, COMPLY, or LEAVE.

Whether you sign or not, by law, your data can be shared as detailed in the *Notice of Privacy Practices* (NPP) unless you have a **state** privacy law. By refusing to sign, you expose the “HIPAA Hoax” and protect your legal right not to sign. **Here are five ways you may be presented with a request to sign the NPP—and HOW TO REFUSE:**

1. **SEPARATE FORM:** A form with only the required statement: “*I acknowledge that I have received [or read or understood] the Notice of Privacy Practices.*” Kindly tell the staff, “I respectfully opt out of signing the form and here is why.” (See HOW TO REFUSE below)
2. **EMBEDDED:** The NPP statement is embedded in a consent form that includes multiple consents (e.g. treatment, billing, data sharing)—and a single signature line. Cross out the NPP statement. NOTE: You can also cross out other items you do not wish to consent to. Take a photo before and after signing, and consider sending a blank form to CCHF (info@cchfreedom.org). Ask the clerk to provide you with a copy of what you signed for your record.
3. **THE NPP NOTICE:** The clinic gives the entire *Notice of Privacy Practices* and asks you to sign the bottom of each page or on the last page of a multi-page form. Kindly refuse. (See HOW TO REFUSE below)
4. **ELECTRONIC TABLET:** The HIPAA Acknowledgement Statement is presented to you on an electronic tablet such as an iPad. You are asked to click a button to acknowledge you’ve read it. Take the iPad to the clerk and say, “*I respectfully opt out of signing HIPAA and here is why.*” If they say the system won’t allow you to register unless you click, ask for paper forms to complete (you may have to insist!) instead of the iPad. Cross out items accordingly.
5. **SIGNATURE PAD:** You are asked to sign a small (5x5) inch electronic pad that says little, or nothing, about what you’re being asked to sign. Inform the clerk that you never sign anything unless you read it. Request a paper copy, read it (it could be multiple consent provisions), and choose what you will agree to and consent accordingly. Cross out the HIPAA NPP acknowledgement statement. Take a photo before and after. Consider sending the blank form to CCHF (we can redact your data.) Request a copy of the signed form for your records.

HOW TO REFUSE—WITH NO PUSHBACK: Open HHS’s NPP website on your phone. Show the staff the first and fourth bullets: 1) “The law does not require you to sign the ‘acknowledgement of receipt of the notice.’” and 4) “If you refuse to sign the acknowledgment, the provider must keep a record of this fact.” *For many clinics, seeing is believing.* To locate the HHS WEBSITE, go to: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/notice-privacy-practices/index.html> (or bit.ly/HHSPrivacyPractice). **Another option:** Screenshot the page before you arrive.