



Office of the
Information and Privacy
Commissioner of Alberta

August 4, 2010

Adjudicator rules release of health information was justified

An Adjudicator with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has determined that the release of personal health information was permitted under several sections of the *Health Information Act* (HIA).

After receiving a fax which indicated the Complainant may harm himself, RCMP took the Complainant to a hospital for an assessment of his mental state. At the time of the assessment, the doctor conducting it disclosed information about the Complainant to both the RCMP and to the Complainant's father. The following day, the doctor also contacted the RCMP to ask that they take steps to remove weapons from the Complainant's father's residence. The Complainant complained that his health information had been disclosed without his consent, in contravention of the HIA.

Following an inquiry into the matter Adjudicator Keri Ridley found that the Doctor had properly disclosed information to the RCMP and that disclosure of minimal information to the Complainant's father was also permitted under the Act.

For a copy of Order H2010-001, please visit our website at www.oipc.ab.ca

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