



PRIVACY LAWS in ALBERTA

FOIP FREEDOM of INFORMATION and PROTECTION of PRIVACY ACT

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) applies to "public bodies", such as: provincial government ministries; boards and commissions; school boards and charter schools; universities and colleges; and local government bodies such as municipalities and police.

Personal Information
FOIP protects privacy by controlling the manner in which a public body may collect, use or disclose personal information.

"Personal information" is defined as recorded information about an identifiable individual.

Your Privacy Rights Under FOIP
No personal information may be collected by or for a public body unless the collection is expressly authorized by an enactment; for purposes of law enforcement; or the information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body.

Information about you must be collected directly from you unless a public body has authority to collect your personal information from other sources (such as, if you authorize another method of collection, or another method of collection is authorized by FOIP).

When collecting your personal information from you, the public body must inform you of the purpose for which the information is collected, the specific legal authority for the collection, and the name and contact information of an employee or officer who is able to answer your questions about the collection.

A public body may use or disclose your personal information for the purpose for which the information was collected or for a consistent purpose. A public body may use or disclose your personal information for other purposes if you consent or if authorized by FOIP.

A public body must limit the disclosure of your personal information to that which is necessary and reasonable.

A public body must make reasonable security arrangements to protect your personal information against such risks as unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure or destruction.

HIA HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

The Health Information Act (HIA) applies to "custodians", which includes Alberta Health and Wellness, regional health authorities, provincial health boards, pharmacies and pharmacists and health services providers paid under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan to provide health services.

Health Information
HIA governs the collection, use and disclosure of "health information" by custodians.

"Health information" includes: diagnostic, treatment and care information; registration information; and health services provider information.

Your Privacy Rights Under HIA
Your health information can only be collected for an authorized purpose, such as to provide health services and must be limited to only the amount required to meet that purpose. A Custodian must collect health information directly from you, unless specifically authorized under the HIA to collect your information from a third party or with your authorization.

When collecting health information from you, the custodian must inform you about the purposes for which the information is being collected, the specific legal authority for the collection and the name and contact information of an employee who can answer any questions you have about the collection.

A custodian may use your health information to provide health services, or for other related purposes as defined in the HIA.

A custodian may disclose your health information to other individuals or organizations if you have consented to the disclosure. A custodian may disclose your health information without consent to another custodian to provide health services, and in certain limited circumstances set out in the HIA, to other individuals or organizations. A custodian must consider your expressed wish about how much health information to disclose, and a custodian must limit disclosure to only the health information that is necessary. You have the right to ask a custodian for information about disclosures of your health information.

Custodians must take reasonable steps to safeguard your health information to protect privacy and confidentiality, and protect health information against loss or other risks such as unauthorized use, disclosure, or modification. Custodians must also make a reasonable effort to ensure your health information is accurate and complete before using or disclosing it.

FOIP

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

HIA

Health Information Act

PIPA

Personal Information Protection Act

OIPC

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

