



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F
Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-2309

August 15, 2006

DMH INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 06-07

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: RECORDS RETENTION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

The purpose of this Department of Mental Health (DMH) Information Notice is to inform Mental Health Plans (MHP) that on July 20, 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 2257, Chapter 89, Statutes of 2006 adding Section 2919 to the Business and Professions Code.

This new law (**effective January 1, 2007**) requires psychologists to maintain patient records for seven years from the patient's discharge date, or in the case of a minor, seven years after the minor reaches 18 years of age. This law is an addition to other various federal, state, and local laws in California governing medical and mental health records retention by certain professionals and facilities.

If you have questions regarding record retention for psychologists, please contact the California Board of Psychology at (916) 263-2699.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.
Director

cc: California Mental Health Planning Council
Patricia Ryan, Executive Director, CMHDA
Compliance Advisory Committee