



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 342
[2013 Senate Bill 599]

**Access to Patient Health Records by
Public Defenders**

Under state law, a patient or person authorized by the patient may, upon submitting a statement of informed consent, inspect and obtain copies of the health care records of a health care provider pertaining to that patient. A health care provider may charge a fee, as specified in the statutes, for providing copies of health care records. However, in some instances, a patient or person authorized by the patient may obtain copies of the patient's health care records for a reduced fee. For example, if a patient is eligible for Medical Assistance, the patient or person authorized by the patient may obtain copies of the records for a reduced fee.

2013 Wisconsin Act 342 specifies that an attorney appointed by the State Public Defender to represent a patient is a "person authorized by the patient" for purposes of inspecting and obtaining copies of health care records for that patient if the attorney receives written informed consent from the patient to view and obtain copies of the records.

Effective date: April 25, 2014.

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April 29, 2014

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.