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## **HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

### **HIPAA/Privacy Policy**

Recently the Federal Government passed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

We are now responsible to present to you our policies for protecting health information. The form accompanying this notice entitled, "Notice of Privacy Practices", is one requirement of the new law. In addition to the practices noted on the form it is necessary to disclose to you that our office is open and can be somewhat noisy. It is possible that another person could overhear or even observe some aspect of your care. For thirty or more years we have attempted to minimize any compromising communication that could be seen or overheard. Literally thousands of patients have been treated with respect and concern for their privacy. Our open and friendly office design has helped reduce anxiety and increased confidence for many people and allowed us to have some fun when appropriate. We believe that you have a right to choose to be treated here knowing that we want to protect your privacy, but we cannot and will not guarantee that some comment, discussion or visual aid may not be discernable by someone other than our treatment team.

If the design of our office or the demeanor of our doctors and staff members is not compatible with your need for total privacy, we apologize, and recommend you seek dental care elsewhere. Although we will be disappointed to see you go, we recognize that our office may not be for you. We will certainly assist you in finding another dental office and transfer any records that we may possess.

If we are fortunate enough to retain your patronage, you will need to sign the form "Acknowledgement of Receipt of Notice of Privacy Practices", which will confirm that you are aware our office design configurations and choose to begin or continue treatment with us. Thank you for helping with our compliance efforts.

***Eric Johnson, DDS and Team***  
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