

Health Information Compliance Alert

Compliance Resource: Ever Wonder How to Write a Business Associate Contract?

If you find yourself flummoxed when confronted with the challenge of writing business associate contracts, help is at your fingertips. The **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) provides on its Web site sample categories/provisions to guide you through the process of creating this all-important document.

Go to <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/contractprov.html#2> to see the sample.

Important: Remember that what appears on the HHS site is only a guideline for what to include in the contract to comply with the Privacy Rule and is not a template for a legally binding contract.

These provisions do not include what HHS calls "many formalities and substantive provisions that are required or typically included in a valid contract." See the document's "Statement of Intent" for further details about how to use this sample.