

Health Information Compliance Alert

Reader Question: A MINOR PROBLEM

Question: A minor patient requested a copy of his medical record. Would giving him access to the record be in violation of the privacy rule?

- Kentucky subscriber

Answer: "Not giving him access could be a violation," warns consultant **Margret Amatayakul** of Schaumburg, IL's Margret A\Consulting. Your state statutes will determine the answer, she says.

The Bottom Line: "If the state is silent, use your professional judgment," Amatayakul advises. However, if state law says no, you absolutely must follow that, she warns.

Tip: Review sections of the privacy rule dealing with minors before you consult your state's guidelines so that you know exactly what you're looking for, Amatayakul counsels.