

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Executive Office of Health and Human Services

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: OHHS Office of Policy Development

DATE: March 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed EOHHS Rule

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services is advertising for promulgation the adoption of the following OHHS rule, **ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS REGULATIONS**. This rule is being adopted in compliance with state and federal law and good practice.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes this Regulation to set forth the specific rules and procedures applicable to access to public records maintained by the Department of Human Services; Department of Children, Youth and Families; Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals and the Department of Elderly Affairs; and the Department of Health as detailed in the current rules and regulations of the *Department of Health regarding Practices and Procedures Before the Department of Health and Access to Public Records of the Department of Health*. EOHHS recognizes both the public's right to access public records and the individual's right to dignity and privacy. It is the EOHHS policy to facilitate public access to all public records that may be disclosed in accordance with RIGL § 38-2-1, et seq. It is also the policy of the EOHHS to ensure all public records under its jurisdiction be available for public inspection and reproduction consistent with all applicable state and/or federal law, unless otherwise prohibited by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Please refer to the Public Notice of Proposed Rule-Making for each rule for further information. These proposed rules are accessible through the RI Secretary of State's Proposed Rules and Regulations Database Search (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/ProposedRules/>) and on the OHHS website (<http://www.ohhs.ri.gov/>) or available in hard copy upon request (401 462-2018).

Interested persons should submit data, views or written comments by Friday, April 1, 2011 to Kimberly Merolla-Brito, Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services FL # 1, Louis Pasteur Building, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920, KMerollaBrito@ohhs.ri.gov.