

**HOBBS FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Ride-Along Program HIPAA Observer Agreement**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 limits departmental disclosure of the protected health information of any patient to specific uses such as the provision of treatment or other health care services, for billing and payment purposes, and for health care operational purposes. Additionally, the department is authorized to release health information for a number of specialized purposes (to assist in the prevention or control of public health risks, selected assistance to law enforcement agencies, assistance to federal officials in the interests of national security, etc.).

As a participant in the department's Ride-Along Program, you are specifically prohibited from discussing individual patients, their treatment, and any other information that could be utilized to identify these patients with anyone except those departmental personnel who will be conducting your ride along activities. Any disclosure of patient information as detailed above may subject you to civil and/or criminal penalties as prescribed by law.

Should special circumstances necessitate that you utilize or disseminate such information (e.g. school reports, patient reports); the EMS Division office will assist you in ensuring that the material is in such form that it cannot be utilized to identify a specific incident. No health-related information may be utilized without review and subsequent authorization of the Fire Chief or his designee.

As a participant in the Hobbs Fire Department Ride-Along Program, I understand the restrictions outlined above and I agree to abide by the requirements of this agreement. I understand that I may be subject to civil or criminal penalties should I violate the prohibitions set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ride-Along Participant / Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Ride-Along Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date