



**motion picture
pioneers
assistance
fund**

SOCIAL SERVICES CORNER

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WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS REGARDING MY MEDICAL RECORDS? HOW DO I GET MY MEDICAL RECORDS FROM FORMER DOCTORS?


Question: I used to go to a doctor in Colorado, but then I moved to California and went to another doctor. I signed a release for the California doctor to obtain records from the one in Colorado. Later on, I had to go to yet another doctor, who asked me for all pertinent past records. To get the ball in motion, I sent a certified letter to the California doctor and asked for the records she had obtained from the Colorado doctor. She sent a certified letter back saying that she was prohibited by law from giving me these records and that I had to go directly to the Colorado doctor to obtain them. I do not want her to keep these records, and I need them for my new physician. Is it true that the law forbids her from turning my own medical records over to me or a new doctor of my choice?

Answer: Legally, you have a right to a copy of your medical records. But it is also true that you will have to go back to the original doctor that you saw for many types of medical records.

Your new doc should have no problem getting records from both of the old docs with nothing more than your signed consent form. But all evaluations

and test results must come from the original source, and you, the former patient, must ask for them directly. Another person can procure those records for you only if you have given him or her a medical power of attorney. You shouldn't be charged more than a nominal fee for staff time and copying, and you should receive the information within the week.

— *Nolo Free Legal & Health Care Information*

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Visit our Web site at www.wrpioneers.org to view our “Life Planning Series: Retirement Planning,” which includes 48 articles to help you plan for a secure and comfortable future. The articles are free to read and print whenever and as often as you like. Members without Web access may call our Social Services Department to request an article at (888) 994.3863, ext. 2370.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

**There is one advantage in being poor...
it's very inexpensive.**

— *The Best of the Good Clean Jokes,*
Bob Phillips

Laughter is known to boost the immune system, lower blood pressure, burn calories and release pleasure-inducing chemicals in the brain.

Go Green!
Receive the *Social Services Corner* by email.
Call 888.994.3863, ext. 2370, or e-mail info@wrmail.org.

Do you or someone you know need our assistance? Call toll-free at (888) 994-3863 or visit www.wrpioneers.org to find out more about our assistance programs.



SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFERED BY ACCREDITED MEDICAL SUPPLIES



Accredited Medical Supplies is committed to help members of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation remain safe and independent at home. Accredited has hundreds of inexpensive solutions to assist with mobility and promote good health.

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Walkers & Rollators



Wheelchairs



Bathroom Safety



Lift Chairs

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MPPAF'S NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

www.disability.gov

Disability.gov is a federal Web site that provides disability-related information regarding a variety of topics, including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, emergency preparedness, employment, housing, health technology, and transportation.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA): www.rsa.ed.gov, (202) 245-7488

RSA is the principal federal agency authorized to carry out the national leadership and administration of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Its Web site provides a very informative "Frequently Asked Questions about RSA" that includes information about employment and vocational rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities.

U.S. Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): www.vba.va.gov, (800) 827-1000

The VBA provides benefits and services to veterans and their families in recognition of the veteran's service to the nation. From its Web site, veterans and their families can view and print benefit fact sheets, forms, and access information regarding benefits such as education, compensation and pension, vocational rehabilitation, home loans, survivor's benefits, and life insurance.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“ Things ain't what they used to be and never were. ”

— Will Rogers

To view our entire National Resource Directory, please visit www.wrpioneers.org.