

Release of Information

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires agencies that receive certain types of HUD funding to use a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Other funding sources may also require program participation in HMIS. This system is not electronically connected to HUD and is only used by authorized agencies. All persons accessing HMIS and CES have received confidentiality training and have signed agreements to protect clients' personal information and limit its use appropriately. The HMIS Privacy Policy is available upon request and is posted at the continuums' website (<http://www.kshomeless.com>). Any additional data sharing agreements, providing details on how the member agency handles client information beyond the baseline HMIS Privacy Policy, are available at the agency service sites.

I give permission to the agency completing this form with me to collect and enter information into HMIS and CES about me and my household, which may include demographics, picture, health information, and services that I receive from participating agencies.

I understand that the HMIS is shared with and used by authorized agencies in my community for the purposes of:

- Assessing clients' needs to improve assistance and better their current or future situations.
- Improving the quality of care and services for people in need.
- Tracking the effectiveness of community efforts to meet the needs of people receiving assistance.
- Reporting data on an aggregate level that does not identify specific people or their personal information.

I understand that CES is shared to improve access and service alignment by assessing various needs, and then to match those assessed with the most appropriate housing interventions available by:

- Allowing for voluntary participation in a VI-SPDAT assessment for admittance to CES which is a critical component of our community's ability to provide the most effective services and housing available.
- Allowing my information to be shared during case conferencing to assist in finding suitable housing programs, services, and other resources.
- Not requiring disclosure of specific disabilities or diagnosis and that specific diagnosis or disability information may only be obtained for purposes of determining program eligibility to make appropriate referrals.

I understand that:

- I have the right to review my HMIS and CES record with an authorized user and receive a copy of this consent form once I have signed it.
- I, or my case manager/outreach worker, can be contacted about the information entered into HMIS and CES.
- All agencies that use HMIS and CES will treat my information with respect and in a professional and confidential manner.
- Unauthorized people or organizations cannot gain access to my information without my consent.
- I agree and understand that my data may be transferred from one HMIS system to another for data collection, reporting, or analytics.
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I acknowledge that auditors or funders who have legal rights to review the work of HMIS and CES may see my information.

Signing this release form does not guarantee that I will receive the requested services and it does not guarantee that I will be called for a housing program.

- I understand that some information provided may need further verification if I am referred to an agency for services.
- I understand that if I do not sign this form, it will not change whether I can receive services from the agency assisting me and any other participating agencies. However, I would need to contact each agency directly to apply for assistance and for a determination of eligibility.
- I understand that this authorization shall remain in effect from the date of my signature below.
- I understand that I may revoke this authorization at any time by notifying the agency in writing. I also understand that the written revocation must be signed and dated later than the date of this authorization. The revocations will not affect any actions taken before the receipt of the written revocation.

For safety reasons, I understand that I may refuse to sign this release form which will allow for my HMIS information and CES assessment to be stored in HMIS without identifying information (first name, last name, date of birth, and ss number) and instead I will be issued an anonymous ID number. I understand that by refusing to store this information in the system that should I be matched to a housing program or supportive services, the agency assisting me must serve as my point of contact for the KS BoS CoC and assist in the coordination of services.

Further, if I am unable to participate in a determination of those services or my permission is needed in the future to authorize additional services for a program, my signature below authorizes the agency assisting me with this release to sign for assistance for me in my absence after receiving my verbal permission. Finally, if I am unable to make decisions, the agency is hereby authorized to represent me.

My signature below indicates that I have read (or been read) the information provided above, have received answers to my questions, and agree to participate in the Coordinated Entry System and the Homeless Management Information System.

Client Signature

Date

Client Signature

Date

Client has refused to sign disclosure. Client may be entered into HMIS without any personal identifying information and will be issued an anonymous ID number.

Witness Signature

Agency Name

Date