



## How DISCOVERY PRACTICE shares your data for Safeguarding purposes

Some members of society are recognised as needing protection, for example children and vulnerable adults. If a person is identified as being at risk from harm we are expected as professionals to do what we can to protect them. In addition we are bound by certain specific laws that exist to protect individuals. This is called “Safeguarding”.

Where there is a suspected or actual safeguarding issue we will share information that we hold with other relevant agencies whether or not the individual or their representative agrees.

There are three laws that allow us to do this without relying on the individual or their representatives agreement (unconsented processing), these are:

Section 47 of The Children Act 1989 :

(<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/47>),

Section 29 of Data Protection Act (prevention of crime)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/section/29>

and

section 45 of the Care Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/section/45/enacted>.

In addition there are circumstances when we will seek the agreement (consented processing) of the individual or their representative to share information with local child protection services, the relevant law being; section 17 Childrens Act 1989 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/17>

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The general position is that if information is given in circumstances where it is expected that a duty of confidence applies, that information cannot normally be disclosed without the information provider's consent.

In practice, this means that all patient information, whether held on paper, computer, visually or audio recorded, or held in the memory of the professional, must not normally be disclosed without the consent of the patient. It is irrelevant how old the patient is or what the state of their mental health is; the duty still applies.

Three circumstances making disclosure of confidential information lawful are:

- where the individual to whom the information relates has consented;
- where disclosure is in the public interest; and
- where there is a legal duty to do so, for example a court order.