

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

JURISDICTION/REGION Drug Overdose Fatality Review Team

WHEREAS Health-General Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9, Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizes the establishment of a multidisciplinary Local Drug Overdose Fatality Review Team (“DOFRT”) for the purposes of preventing drug and alcohol overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS the JURISDICTION(S) has/have established the JURISDICTION/REGION DOFRT for the purposes of reviewing all available information related to fatal drug and alcohol overdoses in JURISDICTION/REGION in order to promote cooperation and coordination among agencies involved in investigations of drug overdose deaths or in providing services to surviving family members; developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of drug overdose deaths in the county; developing plans for and recommending changes within the agencies represented on the local team to prevent drug overdose deaths; and advising the Department on changes to law, policy, or practice, including the use of devices that are programmed to dispense medications on a schedule or similar technology, to prevent drug overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS Health-General Article § 5–906, Annotated Code of Maryland, establishes that, with certain exceptions, the proceedings, records, and files of an DOFRT are confidential and not discoverable or admissible as evidence in any civil action, and

WHEREAS much of the information provided to the JURISDICTION/REGION DOFRT by the Department of Health of Mental Hygiene, including investigative records of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, is confidential, privileged and protected from or limited in disclosure under state and federal laws and regulations, and

WHEREAS in order for the JURISDICTION/REGION DOFRT to fulfill its purpose of preventing fatal and near-fatal overdoses it is desirable that there be among team members a culture of trust in which exists a free exchange of ideas, opinions and speculations that may reflect individual values or beliefs, and which may not reflect a member’s agency position, and which the member may later change;

THEREFORE, I, the undersigned, as a member or observer of the JURISDICTION/REGION DOFRT, AGREE to the following:

1. I will not reveal to any person, other than a team member, any facts relating to an overdose fatality made known during a team meeting or within team correspondence unless required to do so by law, or in the performance of my official duties as an employee of a state or local agency, or as specifically authorized by action of the Team recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
2. I will not re-disclose to any person, other than a team member, any confidential information provided to the team from any government agency or private entity without prior authorization, in writing, from that agency or entity, which is made part of the minutes of a meeting.
3. I will hold confidential all recommendations of the team except as specifically authorized by action of the team recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
4. I will neither reveal nor discuss opinions or speculations of other team members expressed during a closed team meeting to any person other than a team member.

Printed Name

Signature

Agency/Organization

Title

Date