



APsA Supports Patient Confidentiality & The Privacy of The Clinician-Patient Relationship

The US Justice Department's recent efforts to subpoena records of those providing gender affirming care is not just an issue for gender medicine, but a broad-sweeping issue for all mental health treatment.

An essential aspect of ethical and effective treatment is confidentiality, which the Federal Government itself has recognized through HIPAA since 1996. One of the primary objectives of HIPAA has been to reduce fraud and the misuse of personal health information by outside actors.

The Justice Department's actions are governmental incursions into the clinician-patient relationship, intrusions that run counter to the well-being of individual patients, and in the case of young people, the well-being of their families as well.

If the values of confidentiality and consent are compromised for some, they can be compromised for all. Therefore, the American Psychoanalytic Association opposes any attempts at breaching patient confidentiality and unnecessarily intruding into the clinician-patient relationship.