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Children's Commission Releases Update of App to Provide Guidance on Information Sharing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS – (February 2, 2022)—An app explaining who can access a child's records has recently received a brand new upgrade.

The [Information Sharing Guide app](#) is a one-stop shop for anyone trying to access records pertaining to children. The app was created by the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana to assist family case managers, foster parents, lawyers, probation departments, judicial officers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), health care providers, school administrators, and other professionals who work with children in determining if they may legally access and share certain records.

The app was launched in 2017 and has been used by more than 5,000 individuals to date. The app is now updated to include information on new document types and for new users, and to reflect recent legislative changes.

Julie Whitman, the Commission's Executive Director, explained the origin of the app. "Before we created the app, we surveyed child-serving professionals and found that often people either shared zero information out of fear of getting in trouble, or overshared information because they trusted the person asking, neither of which aligns with the law. We created this resource as a quick and easy way for professionals working with children and families to understand under what circumstances they may share information with each other for the benefit of the child and family."

For example, if a foster parent is trying to access their foster child's mental health records, the foster parent can use the app to determine if they are permitted by law to access the records, or who must consent to the release of the records. With three simple clicks indicating who they are, what entity they are trying to access records from and what kind of records they are trying to obtain, users can get reliable guidance.

Professionals who work with children may also use this resource to determine if they are permitted to release a record they maintain. A school administrator, for example, can use the app to determine what records they are legally obligated to share with doctors, probation officers, or the Department of Child Services. The app can be accessed on a [desktop](#), and is available to download for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices.

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