



Resolution # 09 – 10

Disclosure of Personal Information to Law Enforcement Agencies

WHEREAS Alberta Health Services (AHS) has assumed province-wide authority over the provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and;

WHEREAS Anticipated changes to the Emergency Health Services Act (EHSA) and the Health Information Act (HIA) have not been proclaimed and therefore EMS paramedics are legally bound only by the privacy provisions of the FOIPP Act which permit the disclosure of personal information to assist in a criminal investigation, and;

WHEREAS The AHS Executive is directing its EMS paramedics to apply a more restrictive interpretation of the FOIPP Act “so that it is consistent with the HIA”, and;

WHEREAS Pursuant to their interpretation of HIA, AHS training scenarios emphasize that paramedics have the discretion not to disclose information, and;

WHEREAS It is imperative that the Alberta legislature pursue legislative amendment to provide for mandatory reporting of information related to the possible commission of an offence, including disclosure of basic identity and incident information, and;

WHEREAS It is imperative that the Alberta legislature pursue legislative amendment to clarify the definition of health information in HIA such that it does not include information related to the call, observations on scene and witness information, and;

WHEREAS Any delay in the passing of required HIA mandatory disclosure legislation will result in further contradictory messaging being issued to EMS personnel, to the overall detriment of the health and safety of Albertans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) urges the Minister of Health and Wellness, the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General of Alberta to work together in pursuit of safe communities for all Albertans by pursuing legislative amendment to:

1. Provide for immediate reporting of information related to the possible commission of an offence including basic identity and incident information;
2. Clarify the definition of health information to specifically exclude observations made at scene, witness information, and information related to the call for service.