



Tennesen Warning

Your participation in the Dakota County Public Health Follow Along Program is strictly voluntary. You are not legally required to furnish any of the information requested.

If you choose to participate, public health staff will ask for information about you and your family to assist you in receiving appropriate services. This information is classified as private data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. ch. 13.

The information on this sheet applies to your current and future contacts with the Follow Along Program whether the contact is in person, or by mail, email, fax, or telephone.

Purpose and Use of the Requested Data

For the purpose of enrollment into the Follow Along Program, you will be asked to provide information about yourself and your child(ren) that may include your age, health issues during pregnancy, birthing experience, use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol and your child's gender, birth weight, gestational age, birth experience, health concerns, race/ethnicity, health insurance, and the language the child speaks. If you choose to participate in the Follow Along Program, we will periodically ask for information about your child's overall development, including your child's health, communication, physical, mental, and social development, and behavior. We will also periodically ask you for updates to information you provided at enrollment. This program uses this information to determine your health care needs; to develop intervention; provide information about alternative services available in your community; prepare statistical reports and evaluation studies; evaluate and audit programs; and other purposes specifically authorized by you.

Consequences of Providing or Not Providing Information

You do not have to provide the requested information to Dakota County Public Health staff. If you choose not to provide information, public health staff may not be able to enroll your child in the Follow Along program. Please know if you decide not to participate in the Follow Along program, your decision will not affect any services you may already be receiving.

Sharing Information

Should you decide to participate, the information you provide to the public health department will not be released to anyone without your consent, unless otherwise authorized by law or court order. In addition, the private data about you and your child(ren) will be shared with the Minnesota Department of Health for the purposes of creating summary and evaluation data on the Follow Along program.

The data may also be available to:

- Brookes Publishing Co., Inc., the company that administers the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and is under contract with Dakota County, as described in the Privacy Policy, or other vendors under contract with Dakota County to perform services related to the Follow Along Program;
- County staff for administrative purposes;
- Personnel of the welfare system who require the data to verify an individual's identity; determine eligibility, amount of assistance, and the need to provide services to an individual or family across programs; coordinate services for an individual or family; evaluate the effectiveness of programs; assess parental contribution amounts; and investigate suspected fraud; other vendors
- Persons or entities with your written consent or pursuant to a court order;
- Enforcement agencies with statutory authority, the Minnesota State Auditor, and other entities and persons as required under state or federal law.

Minors

If you are a minor, you have the right to request that private data about you be kept from your parents. You must make this request in writing and explain why you wish this data to be withheld and what you expect the consequences of sharing the data with your parents would be. If Dakota County agrees that withholding the information from your parents is in your best interests, the data will not be shown to your parents, as long as withholding data is consistent with state and federal law.