

Talking Points For The Healthy Start Consent Form - "Welcome to Healthy Start"

As the family's first contact with Healthy Start, it is important for you to help the family understand the consent form, located on the back or attached to the "Welcome to Healthy Start" form. Below, you will find the "key points" to go over with families when they sign the consent forms. ***We suggest that you review the consent form verbally with the parent, summarizing the key points below.***

About the Healthy Start Program

This paragraph tells you that if you participate in Healthy Start, that you:

- **Will be contacted** by phone or in person to learn about services, and
- **Agree to fill out a short questionnaire** (The New Baby Questionnaire), which will tell us about whether you're eligible for additional services, and help us to know which other services in the community you might want to know about.

It also tells you that everything in Healthy Start is voluntary. You can skip any question on the New Baby Questionnaire. Even if you sign this consent form, you can always change your mind later.

About the Healthy Start Evaluation & Confidentiality

These parts tell you about our program evaluation and how we keep your information confidential:

- **The Healthy Start program has a program evaluation** that helps us know whether the program is working for families.
- **The program evaluation is very important** for helping us improve the program and for our funding, *but* you can be in Healthy Start even if you don't want to be in the program evaluation.
- If you participate in the program evaluation, all the information you provide will be kept **confidential**, but shared with the researchers for program evaluation purposes only.
- This means your name and information about you or your family will **not be shared with** those outside of Healthy Start or the program evaluation team without your permission.
- The only exception to this is that, like doctors, nurses and teachers, Healthy Start workers are required by law to report any time they suspect child abuse or neglect.
- Here is some more information about HIPAA, just like the papers you get at the doctor's or dentist's office. This tells you more about how we keep your information private, and who to call if you have questions or problems (*hand the parent the HIPAA information form now if it is your process to get HIPAA acknowledgement when you get consent for screening*)

Benefits of Healthy Start

Here we are just saying that if you participate in Healthy Start, we hope you will get some valuable information and other services that can help you as a new parent. And, as I said before, participating in the program evaluation helps the program to continue to improve our services.

HIPAA

This language is required by the federal government to show that you've had the consent form explained and your questions answered, and that you understand how Healthy Start's program evaluation will use information.

Questions & Next Steps. If you have any questions, this paragraph just tells you whom to call to get more information. After the parents read and understand the consent form, have them complete the "Welcome to Healthy Start" form with their level of consent and contact information. Copy the form and keep one for your program's records. Give a copy to the parent for their information.