

TO ALL SENIOR APARTMENT, HOUSING, AND SENIOR CENTERS

Re: Mayor Byron W. Browns' New File of Life Campaign

Dear Managers:

Thank you for responding to our previous survey on the emergency assistance network. As a follow-up to that, I am sending you this communication to inform you about Mayor Byron W. Browns' new "File of Life" Emergency Medical Assistance Campaign, the next step in that process. When "seconds can save lives", medical best practices research has shown that senior citizens comprise over 58% of the emergency medical assistance calls nationwide. In Buffalo alone last year, our emergency personnel at the Buffalo's Fire Department and our ambulance service had over twenty thousand (20,000) emergency calls, mostly from senior citizens.

In many cases, emergency personnel arrive at the home or senior housing complex to find that the senior citizen in need, is either disoriented, or unconscious. In most cases, medical assistance cannot commence in an effective manner when the emergency medical technicians don't know what medications the individual is taking, what allergies may be present, and in some cases, if there is a family member that can easily be contacted for the information.

And, as previously mentioned, "**seconds**" can save lives. And, it is against that background that Mayor Byron W. Brown has initiated the "**File of Life Campaign**". One day soon, all of our medical records will be electronic and readily available, but until that time, our best defense against this critical information gap is the "**File of Life**".

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If you would like to be involved in this program, I will send you a detailed description of the file of life program for your review. In the interium, I would like your response to the following questions:

1. Would you and your clientele/seniors like to be apart of this campaign?
2. If so, how many seniors do you serve? (We need to know this to provide enough recourse).
3. As a critical component of this campaign, the Division for Senior Services will provide student Interns (during summer months) to assist you and your seniors in filling out the medical information on their “files of Life packets” if you require extra assistance. They will come to your facility, complex or center as scheduled/arranged on the attached form. This assistance is only available during summer months.

You will find the response form attached to this communication for your convenience. Please fill it out indicating your interest and fax it back to our office as soon as possible. Our goal is to have every senior citizen in Buffalo equipped with a “File of Life”. Your help in this effort is important.

Thank you, in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Ruffin, Director
Division for Senior Services

FILE OF LIFE INTEREST RESPONSE FORM

Please fax or mail this form back to the Division for Senior Services,
Rm.8A, City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York 14202. Tele:
(716) 851-4141, Fax: (716) 851-5030.

1. Our agency is interested in participating in the File of Life Campaign! Yes _____ No _____.

AGENCY NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

2. We serve (_____) seniors and would need (_____) "File of life" packets.

3. Our agency would like the assistance of the summer interns in providing aid to our seniors in filling out the file of life.

Yes _____ No _____. If yes, we will contact you to Schedule.

4. We would like to have a representative of our facility participating in the emergency services for seniors network.

5. Yes: _____ No: _____