



\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

In accordance with applicable law and regulations, the Tree House is reporting a breach of personal information related to treatment provided by the Tree House Child Advocacy Center. The breach occurred between March 26 and September 24, 2020 and the Tree House became aware of the breach on October 2, 2020. The information regarding this breach is as follows:

- **Description:** Information contained on a SharePoint platform was accessed by persons with legitimate access to County document sharing platforms but not specifically to access of information related to the Tree House.
- **Type(s) of Protected Health Information:** The SharePoint platform that was accessed contained a list of names and for certain clients, biographical data, clinician notes, and details of abuse.
- **Individual Steps Recommended to Individuals Concerned:** We do not have reason to believe that this information was publicly available or disseminated. The individuals who were able to access the information were County employees and/or contractors who properly were permitted access to other portions of the County shared document platform.
- **Mitigation:** The Tree House has fully cooperated with the investigation of this matter by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Technology Services. The applicable databases, which are stored on the County's platform, have been secured against further breach. The County's investigation has sought to determine the extent to which the records of children evaluated by the Tree House were actually accessed by County employees and/or contractors without a need to know and to take appropriate remediation measures with regard to such persons. In addition, staff will engage in continued training to prevent the placement of any protected information on shared document platforms.

Individuals affected by this matter should feel free to contact us with questions and concerns about the loss of your personal information and may call 240-777-4699 during normal business hours or contact us electronically at [contact@treehousemd.org](mailto:contact@treehousemd.org).