



## Casa Esperanza Statement and Guidance on Federal Immigration Enforcement and Commitment to Patient Health and Safety

At Casa Esperanza, we believe that behavioral health treatment is a human right. Building and maintaining a safe, secure environment for hope, health, and recovery will always be at the core of our mission.

Our commitment to our patients', tenants', and families' safety and well-being drives everything we do. We want every person we work with to feel welcomed, valued, and supported in our programs.

Our nondiscrimination policy reflects this commitment: no patient or tenant will be excluded from or face discrimination in accessing the advantages, privileges, and services we offer—regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, homelessness, or disability. Ensuring the safety, rights, and dignity of each patient and tenant is at the heart of our mission.

We also want to reassure our patients and tenants regarding immigration status: we are committed to the confidentiality of your health and personal information, which is required of us by law and is central to the foundations of our core principals as people in recovery helping people in recovery. For any individuals who has concerns, here are a few critical things you should know:

- We do not coordinate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- We are governed by 42 CFR, a regulation that protects the confidentiality of substance use disorder (SUD) patient records. HIPAA generally allows law enforcement to access medical records, but 42 CFR Part 2 requires a special court order. We do not release **any patient information** unless we have an immediate, credible **threat to health or safety** or a **court order** signed by a state or federal judge compelling us to do so.
- Our primary directive will always be ensuring the safety and security of our patients and staff, which means securing our buildings and doors at all times. Access is only given to authorized staff, patients, partners, and law enforcement with the appropriate legal documentation.

Our staff receive ongoing training to ensure patient privacy and rights are protected. We are also having ongoing conversations with staff about how to support patients and families in the event of unforeseen circumstances, such as ICE-related situations, to ensure patients and tenants feel safe and cared for in our programs and in their homes.

We want to emphasize that Casa Esperanza, Inc. is dedicated to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where all can thrive. If you or your loved one need assistance with meeting your behavioral health needs, please contact our Patient Access Team at (617) 445-1123 Ext. 849.

We have also compiled a list of [important and useful resources](#) to assist community members in need of other services or support.

Thank you for being a part of our Casa Community. Together, we are strengthening our community of recovery, one day at a time.