



San Bernardino County Employees'
Retirement Association

Exhibit A: Page 1

POLICY NO.	007	Issue No.	2-03.0
Committee:	Admin Committee	Effective Date:	2/1/201803/ 04/2021
Policy Category:	Benefits	Page(s)	1
Approved.	By: _____		
	Chair of the Board		

Subject: RELEASE OF CAUTIONARY REPORTS OF PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATIONS

RELEASE OF CAUTIONARY REPORTS OF PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATIONS

Background

SBCERA often receives reports of psychiatric evaluations on behalf of members applying for disability retirement benefits. Sometimes a psychiatric evaluation includes the admonition that due to the highly complex nature of the information contained in the psychiatric evaluation serious misunderstanding of the report could result if the contents of the psychiatric evaluation were revealed to the patient. These cautionary admonitions further warn that if the information in the report is revealed to the patient it could harm the patient and/or the doctor-patient relationship. Cautionary admonitions strongly urge that these psychiatric evaluations not be revealed to the patient except in the presence of the undersigned doctor or some other appropriate medical expert. And yet, these members may have the right to review these cautionary psychiatric evaluations if the Board relies upon these reports in making its decision on the member's disability retirement application.

Policy

A. Member Represented by Attorney

In disability retirement applications involving psychiatric reports, psychiatric evaluations containing cautionary admonitions against release to the patient will be given to the member's attorney.

B. Member in Pro Per Not-Represented by Attorney

In disability retirement applications involving psychiatric reports, psychiatric evaluations containing cautionary admonitions against release to the patient will be given to the member's attending physician or the doctor writing the report provided the physician or doctor agrees to receive the report. The member will be advised to discuss release of the information with the doctor receiving the report.