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AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION CORRECTS SECURITY FLAW IN STATE ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY

TALLAHASSEE — The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) today announced that it has identified and corrected a security flaw in Florida’s Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. The security flaw was confirmed by the Agency on June 20, 2008, and the corrections were completed by early June 21, 2008.

“Our team identified the problem and quickly put safeguards in place to protect the information of individuals in the Registry,” AHCA Secretary Holly Benson said. “While we have not received any information at this point that would lead us to believe that there was inappropriate or unauthorized access of the data, we felt that transparency in this matter was necessary to protect the Floridians whose information may have been at risk.”

The database information includes name, address, date of birth, driver license number and social security number. The Agency has identified approximately 55,000 records – or about one percent – of the nearly 6 million donors registered that had the potential to be viewed without authorization.

Letters are being sent to the identified individuals informing them of the flaw and provided steps that they, and any other Floridian, can take in protecting their identity information.

The Agency has posted a series of frequently asked questions and Spanish versions of the information at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Organ/let.htm>. A telephone line has been activated for registered donors who would like additional information. The toll-free information telephone number is (866) 757-0677 and will be active Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. EDT starting July 8th.

Additional information about how to protect against identity theft is available at the Attorney General’s Web page <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/identitytheft>, and at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Web page <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FC3/idtheft.html>.

The Agency for Health Care Administration champions accessible, affordable, quality health care for all Floridians. AHCA administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 32,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics. For more information, please visit <http://ahca.myflorida.com>.

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