



# Mansfield Fire Department

Welcome to Your Clinical Experience!

We're excited to partner with your program and provide a hands-on learning experience in the field. As a clinical student, you may observe, assist, and perform skills during EMS operations – but you must always protect patient privacy and follow crew instructions to ensure a safe, respectful environment.



## What is HIPAA?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a federal law that protects confidential health information and ensures it's only used for medical care, operations, or billing.

## What is Protected Health Information (PHI)?

- Names, addresses, and phone numbers
- Medical history or treatment details
- Dates of birth or death
- Any other information that can identify a patient

## Important Ride-Along Scene Rules

- Students are permitted to enter private residences unless the officer in charge determines it is unsafe or inappropriate.
- Crews will protect your safety and the dignity of the public – they may direct you to stay in the fire apparatus if the scene involves exceptional risks, hazards or circumstances.
- Be respectful and mindful of victims, family members, and bystanders at all times.

## What you MUST Do

- Protect all patient information as confidential
- Follow all instructions from the officer in charge and crew
- Clearly identify yourself as a student during patient interactions
- Wear your program-approved ID and uniform at all times



## What you CANNOT Do

- Discuss patient or scene details outside the clinical setting
- Take photos, videos, or recordings
- Post anything about your ride on social media
- Perform any procedure without proper consent and supervision
- Ignore a crew member's direction, especially during sensitive scenes



## Consequences of Violations

- Removal from the clinical site or shift
- Legal penalties for HIPAA violations
- Notification to your program coordinator
- Permanent restriction from participating in future ride time

## Questions

Privacy Officer  
Mansfield Fire Department  
Phone: 419-755-9814

