## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

## NOTICE OF AUTHORIZATION FOR THE RELEASE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR FAMILY REUNION APPLICANTS

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), chronic hepatitis B, and chronic hepatitis C are viral diseases that can cause serious, even life-threatening illnesses. These diseases can be spread by sexual activity or other activities involving the exchange of body fluids.

As a condition to participation in the Family Reunion Program, applicants must consent to disclose personal health information to their spouse related to these diseases. The HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C status of the applicant will be disclosed to the spouse only if the applicant is laboratory confirmed positive for one of these communicable diseases. The authorization disclosure, DOH Form #5032, will allow the release of disease related information to the spouse only.

The consent does not authorize HIV testing for an individual whose HIV status is unknown. A signed authorization for disclosure of personal health information and confidential HIV related information will not be released to anyone other than the spouse with whom an applicant desires to participate in a Family Reunion visit.

If an applicant is confirmed positive for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C and applies for a Family Reunion visit with their spouse, the spouse will be informed of the disease status of the incarcerated individual. All Family Reunion Program spouses will receive educational materials and counseling regarding the danger of these diseases, how they are transmitted and how to prevent transmission, regardless of the incarcerated individual's health status. A Family Reunion visit will not be denied solely on the basis of the HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C status of the incarcerated individual/applicant.

Notification to the spouse shall be made by the Facility Medical Director by letter and shall be strictly confidential.

Form #4500A (03-23) Photocopy Locally as Needed