



CONSENT FOR COUNSELING SERVICES TO CHILD(REN)

GUESTS WHO ARE DEPENDENTS:

If you are requesting services for a child(ren) as the guardian, the parent, or Managing Conservator / Possessor Conservator of that child, it will be critical that the child trust the counselor. With your understanding in advance, we shall keep what your child says/does confidential.

If we think it would be helpful to share a specific detail with you, we shall first ask the child's permission to do so, or we shall encourage the child to do so. It is important to the counseling process that he/she does not think the parent and the counselor are conspiring against him/her in any way. You have the right and responsibility to question the counseling process, to understand the nature of activities with the child, and to be informed of the child's progress. We have the right to use our clinical discretion as to what is appropriate disclosure. We shall review the child's progress in counseling with you, and we want to obtain feedback from you regarding your interactions with the child and observations of the child in various settings. In this way, we shall work as a team. We shall value your consultations with us and your involvement. We shall discuss with you how you can participate effectively in the child's treatment and progress outside of counseling.

GUEST RIGHTS:

Guests are also assured of confidentiality, which is a protected ethical right and a California state law, subject to legal limits. Cases may be discussed with other counselors within this agency in order to provide continuing care and/or treatment options. Should we believe it beneficial to us and to you to consult with another professional outside our agency regarding your case, we shall notify you and obtain a release of information signed by you. At times, we may seek professional supervision or consultation of the case without identification of the guest in any way. There are some exceptions to confidentiality, which are addressed below.

Duty to Warn - Confidentiality

The following are exceptions to confidentiality:

- We are required by law to report any incidence of suspected child abuse, neglect, or molestation in order to protect the child involved;
- In legal cases, we or our records may be subpoenaed by the court system;
- Whenever obligated by law or a judge to share confidential information;
- Whenever there is a legal exception to confidentiality;
- You authorize us to notify relevant other (including a possible victim) and/or law enforcement authorities, if we judge that a client has an intention to harm self or others.

Other Exceptions to Confidentiality are as follows:

- Managed care organizations usually require that we consult with their case managers and provide progress updates to their organization. This is how their personnel determines whether to provide you with necessary authorization for visits. If you have a managed care plan, we have no control over the data required by your organization once it leaves our office.
- In divorce cases in which parents share joint custody, either parent has a right to the child's record, unless otherwise stipulated in the divorce decrees.

Keep this first page for your records

