

LIMITS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Contents of all therapy sessions are considered to be confidential. Both verbal information and written records about a client cannot be shared with another party without the written consent of the client or the client's legal guardian. Noted exceptions are as follows:

Legal Mandates Exceptions to Confidentiality

- When the therapist has knowledge or reasonable suspicion of physical abuse, sexual abuse, willful cruelty, or unjustified punishment, unlawful corporal punishment or injury or neglect, child abuse must be reported to Child Protective Services (CPS)
- When the therapist has knowledge or reasonable suspicion of physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, neglect, financial abuse or abduction of an elder or dependent adult the therapist must report abuse to Adult Protective Services.
- When the client communicates a "serious Threat of physical violence against reasonably identifiable victim or victims the therapist has a legal requirement to inform to law enforcement (and if appropriate, the intended victim).
- If a client is over 21 years old or older and tells the therapist he or she is having consensual sex with a minor under the age of 16 the therapist must make a mandated report to CPS
- If a client any age reports being involved in downloading, possessing, or transmitting child pornography the therapist is mandated to report to CPS

When a mandated report is made the therapist will inform the client of the need to file a report and help client to process their response.

Other exceptions:

- When a client discloses or implies a plan for suicide, the therapist has an ethical duty to take action to protect the client, which may include warning the authorities and/or the client's family members and emergency contact
- If the therapist is ordered by the court to provide confidential information, the therapist legally must comply. However, if appropriate, the therapist will do what she can within the law to advocate for limited release of information and to protect the client's confidentiality.
- When client uses third party payers, the client has waved confidentiality
- If the client commits an act of violence or theft against the therapist the therapist is no longer obligated to maintain confidentiality.

Signing below indicates that you have reviewed and understand confidentiality, the limits of confidentiality, and the policies regarding communicating confidential information with third parties, families, and other health care providers.

Remember: You can always ask the therapist questions about the types of information she would disclose. You can frame it in the following way: "if someone told you that they were doing _____ would you have to tell someone?"

Signature) _____ Date: _____