

Child Informed Consent Form

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My Training and Approach to Therapy

I have a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology earned in 2010 at University of La Verne, California. I am a licensed psychologist (#4220) in Arizona State. My areas of special training and expertise include managing mood disorders, such as anxiety and depression, grief and loss issues, chemical addiction and specifically working with survivors of trauma, as well as children, adolescents and adults adjusting to a medical condition such as chronic pain or medical syndromes. I use an integrative approach, often pulling from cognitive behavioral therapy, humanistic therapy while incorporating a strengths-based framework that focuses on increasing each individual's awareness of his or her inner resiliency in overcoming challenges. I use a variety of techniques in therapy, trying to find what will work best for the client and their family. These techniques are likely to include dialogue, interpretation, cognitive reframing, awareness exercises, self-monitoring experiments, visualization, journal keeping, role-playing, drawing, and reading books.

Minor Consent Form

The involvement of children in therapy can be highly beneficial to their overall development. Very often, it is best to see them with parents and other family members; sometimes they are best seen alone. I will assess which might be best for your child and make recommendations for you. Obviously, the support of all the child's caregivers is essential, as well as their understanding of the basic procedures involved in counseling children.

The general goal of involving children in therapy is to foster their development at all levels. At times, it may seem that a specific behavior is needed, such as to get the child to obey or reveal certain information. Although those objectives may be part of overall development, they may not be the best goals for therapy. Again, I will evaluate and discuss these goals with you. Because my role is that of the child's helper, I will not become involved in legal disputes or other official proceedings unless compelled to do so by a court of law. Matters involving custody and mediation are best handled by another professional who is specially trained in those areas rather than by the child's therapist.

The issue of confidentiality is critical in treating children. When children are seen with adults, what is discussed is known to those present and should be kept confidential except by mutual agreement. Children seen in individual sessions (except under certain conditions) are not legally entitled to confidentiality (also called privilege); their parents have this right. However, unless children feel they have some privacy speaking with a therapist, the benefits of therapy may be lost. Therefore, it is necessary to work out an arrangement in which children feel that their privacy is generally being respected, at the same time that parents have access to critical

information. This agreement must have the understanding and approval of the parents or other responsible adults and of the child in therapy.

This agreement regarding treatment of minors has provisions for inserting individual details, which can be supplied by both the child and the adults involved. However, it is first important to point out the exceptions to this general agreement. The following circumstances override the general policy that children are entitled to privacy while parents or guardians have a legal right to information.

- Confidentiality and privilege are limited in cases involving child abuse, neglect, molestation, or danger to self or others. In these cases, the therapist is required to make an official report to the appropriate agency and will attempt to involve parents as much as possible.
- Minors may independently enter into therapy and claim the privilege of confidentiality in cases involving abuse or severe neglect, molestation, pregnancy, or communicable diseases, and when they are on active military duty, married, or officially emancipated. They may seek therapy independently for substance abuse, danger to self or others, or a mental disorder, but parents must be involved unless doing so would harm the child.
- Any evaluation, treatment, or reports ordered by or done for submission to a third party, such as a court or a school, is not entirely confidential and will be shared with that agency with your specific written permission. Please also note that I do not have control over information once it is released to a third party.

Now that the various aspects surrounding confidentiality have been stated, the specific agreement between you and your child/children follows:

I, (name) _____ agree that (client name) _____ should have privacy in his/her/their therapy sessions, and I agree to allow this privacy except in extreme situations, which I will discuss with the therapist. At the same time, except under unusual circumstances, I understand that I have a legal right to obtain this information. To increase the effectiveness of the therapy, I agree to the following. I will do my best to ensure that therapy sessions are attended and will not inquire about the content of the sessions. If my child prefers/ children prefer not to volunteer information about the sessions, I will respect his/her/their right not to disclose details. Basically, unless my child has/ children have been abused or is/ are a clear danger to self or others, the therapist will normally tell me only the following:

- Whether sessions are attended
- Whether my child is/ children are generally participating or not
- Whether progress is generally being made or not

The normal procedure for discussing issues that are in my child's/ children's therapy will be joint sessions including my child/ children, the therapist, and me and perhaps other appropriate adults. If I believe there are significant health or safety issues that I need to know about, I will contact the therapist and attempt to arrange a session with my child/ children present. Similarly, when the therapist determines that there are significant issues that should be discussed with parents, every effort will be made to schedule a session involving the parents and the child/ children. I understand that if information becomes known to the therapist and has a significant bearing on the child's/ children's well-being, the therapist will work with the person providing the

information to ensure that both parents are aware of it. In other words, the therapist will not divulge secrets except as mandated by law, but may encourage the individual who has the information to disclose it for therapy to continue effectively.

Parent/Guardian:

Check boxes and sign below indicating your agreement to respect your child’s privacy:

I will refrain from requesting detailed information about individual therapy sessions with my child. I understand that I will be provided with periodic updates about general progress, and/or may be asked to participate in therapy sessions as needed.

Although I know I have the legal right to request written records/session notes since my child is a minor, I agree NOT to request these records in order to respect the confidentiality of my child’s treatment.

I understand that I will be informed about situations that could endanger my child. I know this decision to breach confidentiality in these circumstances is up to the therapist’s professional judgment and may sometimes be made in confidential consultation with her consultant/supervisor.

I agree to pay the fee of \$120.00 per session, unless another amount has been mutually agreed upon or a third party, such as insurance, is covering the cost, then I agree to pay the copayment (if applicable).

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Therapist Signature _____ Date _____