

Consent Form 4—Limits of Confidentiality

All contents of a client's therapy session, consent forms, evaluations and assessments are considered to be confidential. Both verbal information and written records about a client cannot be shared with another party without written consent from the client or the client's legal guardian. Noted exceptions to confidentiality are as follows:

Duty to Warn and Protect

When a client discloses intentions or a specific plan to harm another individual, therapists are required by law to warn the intended victim and report this information to the police. If the client discloses or implies a plan for suicide, therapists are required to notify the police and make reasonable attempts to contact the family of the client.

Abuse of Children and Vulnerable Adults

If a client states or suggests that he or she is abusing a child or vulnerable adult or has recently done so, or a child or vulnerable adult seems to be in danger of abuse, therapists are required to report this information to the appropriate social services.

In the Event of a Client's Death

The spouse or parent have a right to access therapy records in the event of a client's death.

Court Orders

Therapists are required by law to release all therapy records of clients when a court order has been placed.

Minors/Guardianship

Parents of legal guardians of non-emancipated minor clients have the right to access the clients therapy records.

Consultations with other Professionals

Information about clients may be disclosed in consultations with other professionals in order to provide the best possible treatment. In such cases, the name of the client, or any identifying information, is not disclosed.

No Secrets Policy

One of the goals of therapy is for partners to learn to communicate honestly with each other. Therefore, if one partner shares something with the therapist in confidence, the therapist will encourage that individual to openly communicate the information to the other partner in session. The therapist will not allow herself to be put in a position of holding secrets. Each partner should agree to this policy before starting treatment.

Law Firm/Collection Agency

If a client accrues an outstanding balance, she or he is given 5 business days to remedy the situation, after which the services of a law firm or collection agency is solicited. The client's name, address and phone number will be provided to the agency, but no details regarding the therapy sessions will be relayed.

Sessions by Phone or Skype

Clients receiving services by phone or Skype are encouraged to secure their phone or computer line. They are advised to have sessions in a private setting where confidentiality will be preserved and they will not be distracted.

I, _____ and _____ (client's name) agree to the above limits of confidentiality and understand their ramifications.

Client's Signature _____ Date _____
Printed Name _____

Client's Signature _____ Date _____
Printed Name _____