

HIPPA and 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. An authorization to release records will be needed before anything can be released. Noted exceptions are as follows:

Duty to Warn and Protect: When a client discloses intentions or a plan to harm another person, the mental health professional is required to warn the intended victim and report this information to legal authorities. In cases in which **the client discloses or implies a plan for suicide or homicide**, the health care professional is required to notify legal authorities and make reasonable attempts to notify the family of the client.

Abuse of Children, (including prenatal) and Vulnerable Adults: If a client states or suggests that he or she is **abusing a child (or vulnerable adult) or has recently abused a child (or vulnerable adult), or a child (or vulnerable adult) is in danger of abuse**, the mental health professional is required to report this information to the appropriate social service and/or legal authorities.

Minors/Guardianship: Parents or legal guardians of non emancipated minor clients have the right to access the clients' records.

Insurance Providers and other third party payers are given information that they request regarding services to clients. Information that may be requested includes, but is not limited to: types of service, dates/times of service, diagnosis, treatment plan, description of impairment, progress of therapy, case notes, and summaries. I agree to the above limits of confidentiality and understand their meanings and ramifications.

The Privacy Rule and Public Health

The Privacy Rule recognizes 1) the legitimate need for public health authorities and others responsible for ensuring the public's health and safety to have access to PHI to conduct their missions; and 2) the importance of public health reporting by covered entities to identify threats to the public and individuals. Accordingly, the rule 1) permits PHI disclosures without a written patient authorization for specified public health purposes to public health authorities legally authorized to collect and receive the information for such purposes, and 2) permits disclosures that are required by state and local public health or other laws.

Client Signature (Client's Parent/Guardian if under 18)

_____ Today's Date