

Confidentiality

Current legal and professional ethical codes require that all information obtained within the counseling session remain private unless the patient/client gives express written permission to reveal private information. These laws and codes enable clients to feel more secure regarding the privacy of the issues discussed. However, there are six exceptions to these laws and codes. They are as follows:

1. It is necessary to report to the appropriate authorities any information which would lead one to reasonably suspect the presence of child or elderly adult abuse. This report can be made with or without the consent of the client. However, usually the client will be informed before any report is made.
2. It is necessary to report to the appropriate authorities any information regarding the client's intention to harm an identifiable third party or his/her property. This report would include informing the intended victim. It can be reported with or without the consent of the client, but most often is done with the client's knowledge and consent.
3. When a client intends to seriously harm himself and the threat is considered imminent, reasonable steps will be taken to insure that the harm does not occur. This may include involuntary hospitalization.
4. It may be necessary to provide copies of your records in a legal proceeding.
5. Charts may be randomly subject to peer review by Meier Clinic clinicians.
6. Electronic records are kept of appointments and services rendered for all clients.

In all cases an effort will be made to inform the client and/or the legal guardian that a report will be made to the appropriate authorities, before such a report is actually made.

Each of the undersigned acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the foregoing provisions and that the person signing as parent, or legally responsible party certifies that he/she is lawfully entitled to act on behalf of the client.

Client

Date

Witness

Date