



Patient Name: _____

DOB _____

Behavioral Health Services

Treatment Agreement for Minors Experiencing Divorcing, Divorced or Separated Parents

In an effort to provide behavioral health services in a consistent and effective manner, below is a summary of expectations and guidelines for treating minors with separated or divorced parents. Parents/guardians must adhere to these guidelines in order for the minor to receive treatment.

Initiating Care

- 1) The parent/guardian listed as the designated contact in the minor's record will be the primary contact and primary source of information regarding the minor, unless we are advised otherwise by the primary contact.
- 2) A member of our team will conduct a brief phone screening with the contact person. If the family or custody situation is complicated or adversarial, additional documentation and/or an initial meeting may be required. **An initial meeting does not guarantee ongoing treatment.**

Custody/Decision-making

- 1) It may be necessary for the therapist to be aware of custody arrangements, parenting plans, decision-making orders, or any other orders from the court. The therapist may require a copy of the court documents.
- 2) **Once treatment has started, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide any updates regarding parenting plans, custody, or medical decision-making within 14 days of the decision.**

Confidentiality

- 1) **All** verbal and written communication (face-to-face, phone call, email, written communication, or any other documentation provided to the therapist) has the potential to become part of the minor's record. It may also potentially be shared with the other parent, if the therapist deems it necessary.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to communicate with each other, as necessary. It is not the role of the therapist to facilitate communication between parents/guardians.
- 3) The therapist will not release the mental health record of the minor to anyone, including a parent/guardian, if it is not in the minor's best interest to do so, unless required by law.

Financial



- 1) Payment arrangements shall be established at the initial meeting. The practice will bill one guarantor for payment and will not participate in shared payment arrangements.

Legal Proceedings

- 1) The purpose of therapy is to create a supportive, safe relationship with the minor; therefore, the therapist will not participate in legal proceedings or speak with attorneys. The therapist will provide limited information if it is required by law or a court order.
- 2) The therapist will **not** make recommendations regarding custody of the minor.

These guidelines are in place to limit disruptions, which may negatively impact treatment. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the need to transfer the minor out of DMC Primary Care Behavioral Health Services. We appreciate the cooperation of all parties, and look forward to a smooth, effective process.

By signing this agreement, I/we acknowledge that I/we understand and agree to terms listed above.

Parent/Guardian (primary contact)

Signature / Printed Name

Witness Signature / Name

Date

Parent/Guardian (secondary contact)

Signature / Printed Name

Witness Signature / Name

Date