

## INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT FOR TREATING MINORS

A NEUTRAL, TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP WITH A CHILD IS THE MOST ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL THERAPY. The child needs to experience the therapist as trustworthy and supportive. A good relationship between the therapist and child's parents is the basis upon which the child can build his or her trust. Children benefit when parents participate in the child's treatment. Through meeting with the therapist, parents are able to gain fresh perspectives, develop greater understanding and learn helpful parenting approaches. The length of the therapy and frequency of the meeting will depend upon your child's particular difficulties and how parents are able to work together to support the child.

While parents have the right to general information on issues and progress of their child's treatment, communications between the therapist and child are confidential. Your child needs to know that he/she can talk freely about any subject and that what is said will be held in confidence. You should explain this to your child and the therapist will also explain this at the beginning of the counseling process. With this in mind, parents should understand that there are certain issues which may not be committed to them if it is deemed best to maintain the child's privacy and it is requested by the child to do so.

There are a number of exceptions to confidentiality as written by law. The therapist has the duty to report any information concerning suspected child abuse which includes sexual and physical abuse and neglect. The parents, child and therapist understand that once allegations are reported, the therapy may or may not continue depending upon the allegations and pending investigation. Another exception to confidentiality is made in danger of suicide or if your child threatens serious planned out feasible harm to someone else.

I authorize my child \_\_\_\_\_ to receive counseling services. I have read, understood and agree to the information and policies described in this form.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_