



Coaching Services Confidentiality Form

Confidentiality

The law protects the privacy of all communications between a client and a therapist, however, that law is NOT specifically connected to coaching. In most situations, I can only release information to others about your treatment (or your child's treatment) if you sign a written authorization form that meets certain legal requirements imposed by HIPAA. There are other situations that require only that you provide written, advance consent. Your signature on this current agreement provides consent for those activities, as follows:

- I may occasionally find it helpful to consult other health and mental health professionals and coaches about a case. During a consultation, I make every effort to avoid revealing the identity of my client. The other professionals are also legally bound to keep the information confidential. If you do not object, I will not tell you about these consultations unless I feel it is important for our work together. I will note all consultations in your Record.
- You should be aware that I may employ administrative staff. In most cases, I need to share protected information with these individuals for administrative purposes, such as scheduling, billing and communication with insurance companies (if coaching is covered under your insurance or another third-party funding source). All staff members have been given training about protecting your privacy and have agreed not to release any information outside of the practice without the permission of a professional staff member.
- Disclosures required by health insurers or to collect overdue fees are discussed elsewhere in this agreement.
- If a client threatens to harm himself / herself, I may be obligated to seek hospitalization for him/her and/or to contact family members, or others who can help provide protection.

There are some situations where I am permitted or required to disclose information without either your consent or authorization:

- If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information concerning my professional services, such information is protected by the therapist/client privilege law. I cannot provide any information without your written authorization, or a court order. If you are involved in or contemplating litigation, you should consult with your attorney to determine whether a court would be likely to order me to disclose information.
- If a government agency is requesting the information for oversight activities, I may be required to provide it for them.
- If a client files a complaint or lawsuit against me, I may disclose relevant information regarding that client in order to defend myself.

There are some situations in which I am legally obligated to take actions, which I believe are necessary

to attempt to protect others from harm and I may have to reveal some information about a client's treatment. These situations are unusual in my practice.

- If I have reason to believe that a child has been abused, the law requires that I file a report with the appropriate governmental agency, usually the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Once such a report is filed, I may be required to provide additional information.
- If I have reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult or elder person has had a physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her, other than by accidental means, or that he or she has been neglected or exploited, I must report to an agency designated by the Department of Human Services. Once I have filed such a report, I may be required to provide additional information.
- If I determine that a client presents a serious danger to him/herself or danger of violence to another, I may be required to take protective actions. These actions may include notifying the potential victim, and /or contacting the police, and/or seeking hospitalization for the client.

If such a situation arises, I will make every effort to fully discuss it with you before taking any action and will limit my disclosure to what is necessary.

While this written summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, it is important that we discuss any questions or concerns that you may have now or in the future. The laws governing confidentiality can be quite complex, and I am not an attorney. In situations where specific advice is required, formal legal advice may be needed.

CLIENT (or PARENTS/GUARDIANS, IF CLIENT IS A MINOR)

Signature of Client or Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Date

Name of Client or Parent(s)/Guardian(s) *(Please print)*

Relationship(s) to Client

OTHER ADULT PARTY/PARTIES INVOLVED IN COACHING

Signature of Secondary Party/Parties

Date

Name of Secondary Party/Parties *(Please print)*

Relationship(s) to Client

Signature of Coach

Date

Name of Coach