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### **Confidentiality Agreement**

Although therapists must always honor your privacy by maintaining confidentiality about your disclosures and securely preserving your records, there are exclusions to this rule. Therapists can (or must) break confidentiality, and take other appropriate actions, as warranted, for the following reasons:

**Consent**—A clinician may release confidential information with the consent of the patient or a legally authorized surrogate decision maker, such as a parent, guardian, or other surrogate designated by an advance medical directive.

**Minors/Guardianship** – Parents or legal guardians of non-emancipated minor clients have the right to access the client's records.

**Court Order**—A clinician may be required to release confidential information upon the receipt of an order by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Continued Treatment**—A clinician may release confidential information necessary for the continued treatment of a patient (to insurance companies, referring physician) and to receive payment for necessary services.

**Abuse of Children 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 health care professional is required to report this information to the appropriate social services department.

**Duty to Warn and Protect** – When a client discloses intentions or a plan to harm another person, the health care 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, the health care professional is required to notify legal authorities and make reasonable attempts to notify the family of the client.

-It is an important part of the therapeutic process for you to share your thoughts and feelings on your treatment goals and progress. Therapy is meant to be interactive between client and therapist.

-If I see you of the office setting, I will wait for you to speak first to protect your confidentiality.

**(Clients seeing Sandra Noble, MA Resident in counseling or Gwen Seiler, Resident in counseling will be discussing cases with Trish McCoy Kessler, LPC, CEDS-S as she is under her supervision and will continue to be confidential.)**

I have been informed of the limits of confidentiality.

Client or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_