

Laurie Beth Morales MSW, LCSW 2680
A Minor's Record

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and participation in your child's counseling. This waiver is to ensure that your child's record remains confidential and private. In working with a minor child, I require a signed consent from both parents, and in the case of one parent having full legal custody, I require a copy of the court order.

Counseling is intended to be safe place for a child to process and explore difficult and painful feelings. If a child believes his/her disclosures will be confidential (with exceptions stated in the informed consent, i.e. danger to self, others, abuse, etc), and then discovers they have been used in a court process or their parent has requested and read their record, the result could be detrimental. The child may develop a distrust of the counseling process and the therapist, and it could compromise the relationship with one or both parents.

There are times, before or after a child has come to counseling, that parents decide to divorce. Divorce is a difficult process, and at times becomes antagonistic. One or both parents may suspect that their child is discussing the divorce in counseling, and believe that their disclosures would support one or the other parents' position in the divorce. The counseling record is not intended to be used against one parent, or to support the other parent's position.

By law, custodial and non-custodial parents may have a right to their child's individual counseling record. If a child believes the counseling process is a safe place to disclose difficult issues and feelings, he or she will likely share openly in the counseling process. However, if a child believes a parent would request their counseling record, he or she may be less likely to disclose on a deeper level. Likewise, if a child discovers a parent has requested their record and been privy to private disclosures, he or she may develop a distrust of the counseling process, and this could potentially impact trust in the parent/child relationship.

If I am working with your child individually, there may be times that I will call a parent into a session, or have parent/child sessions as a part of the individual therapy process. Please understand that these sessions will be a part of your child's individual record that could be accessed by the other parent. These sessions are not considered to be formal "family therapy", as your child is in individual therapy with me. If you participate in a parent session with your child, your disclosures will be a part of your child's individual record which can be requested by the other parent and therefore may not be entirely confidential.

I understand that as a parent I may be legally entitled to my child's counseling record, however I agree I will not subpoena or request my child's record in order to support my position in the event of a divorce proceeding, or custody issues. I also understand the disadvantages of requesting my child's counseling record.

Parent signature	Date
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Parent signature	Date
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Therapist	Date
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