

Hardy & Stephens Counseling Associates, PLLC

11070 183rd Circle NW, Suite C, Elk River, MN 55330

Phone: 763-633-5111

Fax: 763-633-5112

MINOR CONSENT AND AGREEMENT

MINOR CONSENT

Please check below to indicate the current situation regarding the custody of the minor child:

_____ Parents are married to each other and are the legal parents of the child (one signature required)

_____ I am a single parent and have full legal custody of the child (one signature required)

_____ My ex-partner/spouse and I share legal custody of the child (both signatures required)

➤ Will he/she agree to treatment of the child? _____ Yes _____ No

_____ The child is in the custody of the State of Minnesota
County _____

- ✓ I understand that at least one parent must accompany the minor child to his/her first appointment and any subsequent appointments, until discussed with and agreed upon with the therapist.
- ✓ I understand that Hardy & Stephens Counseling Associates, PLLC does not give recommendations or do evaluations for child custody or parenting. If this becomes a therapeutic issue, my child’s therapist may close or terminate the case.
- ✓ I hereby grant my permission for my minor child to be treated by Hardy & Stephens Counseling Associates, PLLC. This permission will remain in force until revoked by me.

LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE DATE

LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE DATE

MINOR AGREEMENT

The involvement of children and adolescents in therapy can be highly beneficial to their overall development. Very often, it is best to see them with parents and other family members; sometimes, they are best seen alone. The therapist will assess which might be best for your child and make recommendations to you. Obviously, the support of all the child's caregivers is essential, as well as their understanding of the basic procedures involved in counseling children.

The general goal of involving children in therapy is to foster their development at all levels. At times, it may seem that a specific behavior is needed, such as to get the child to obey or reveal certain information. Although those objectives may be part of overall development, they may not be the best goals for therapy. Again, the therapist will evaluate and discuss these goals with you.

Because the role is that of the child's helper, the therapist will not become involved in legal disputes or other official proceedings unless compelled to do so by a court of law. Matters involving custody and mediation are best handled by another professional who is specially trained in those areas rather than by the child's therapist, as this can become a barrier to effective therapy.

The issue of confidentiality is critical in treating children. When children are seen with adults, what is discussed is known to those present and should be kept confidential except by mutual agreement. Children seen in individual sessions (except under certain conditions) are not legally entitled to confidentiality (also called privilege); their parents have this right. However, unless children feel they have some privacy in speaking with a therapist, the benefits of therapy may be lost. Therefore, it is necessary to work out an arrangement in which children feel that their privacy is generally being respected, at the same time that parents have access to critical information. This agreement must have the understanding and approval of the parents or other responsible adults and of the child in therapy.

Hardy & Stephens Counseling Associates, PLLC believe that in the best interest of the therapeutic relationship, confidentiality should be maintained between your child and the therapist, except in the following cases:

- ✓ When child abuse is suspected
- ✓ When the child poses a "clear and imminent danger" either to self or another person
- ✓ When the therapist believes it is in the best interest of the child to disclose information to the parent
- ✓ Any evaluation, treatment, or reports ordered by, or done for submission to a third party such as a court or a school is not entirely confidential and will be shared with that agency with your specific written permission. Please also note that the therapist does not have control over information once it is released to a third party.

AGREEMENT

I understand that the normal procedure for discussing issues that are in my child's/children's therapy will be joint sessions including my child/children, the therapist, and me and perhaps other appropriate adults. If I believe there is significant health or safety issues that I need to know about, I will contact the therapist and attempt to arrange a session with my child/children present.

We ask you to do your best to ensure that therapy sessions are attended and that you will refrain from inquiring about the content of sessions. If your child prefers/children prefer not to volunteer information about the sessions, it is our hope you will respect his/her/their right not to disclose details.

To protect the therapeutic alliance, your child's/children's therapist will usually prefer to relay the following information:

- ✓ Whether sessions are attended
- ✓ Whether or not my child is/children are generally participating
- ✓ Whether or not progress is generally being made