

## **Woburn Pediatric Psychological Services**

7 Alfred Street – Suite 100

Woburn, MA 01801

(781) 569-6022

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT**

Professional ethics and legal standards require the mental health provider/client communications to be kept confidential. It is very important that you be aware, however, that Massachusetts General Laws specify certain limitations to this confidentiality of communications. Woburn Pediatric Psychological Services is legally obligated to inform you of those limitations. Please understand that they are presented to you in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws. Whenever you wish to give expressed written consent, Woburn Pediatric Psychological Services can share information about you with another entity, but the following points out areas in which disclosure can be made without your consent:

1. In certain legal proceeding, a court officer may require the release of confidential information about you or your child's treatment.
  - a. In the case of a court order, HIPAA requires the practice to take the additional steps of either:
    1. notifying the patient prior to disclosure and obtaining reasonable assurance that the patient was so notified or
    2. obtaining a protective order regarding the information.
  - b. Absent such steps, Woburn Pediatric Psychological Services cannot disclose the information without patient authorization.
2. Woburn Pediatric Psychological Services is required to disclose information in order to protect others if:
  - You or your child present a danger to yourself and refuse to accept appropriate treatment.
  - You or your child tells a provider of an actual threat to harm another person.
  - You or your child has a history of violent acts and a provider believes that there is danger to yourself or another person.
3. Woburn Pediatric Psychological Services providers are allowed to release appropriate information in order to protect themselves in a court action.
4. At times, your health insurer may require information about your condition in order to justify their continued payments for you or your child's treatment.
5. Providers within Woburn Pediatric Psychological Services may choose to consult with colleagues within the practice about you or your child's treatment in order to ensure that your treatment with us is of the highest caliber.