

**ALISON FREEMAN, Ph.D.**

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**CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

Confidentiality is important both to clients and therapists. Basically, confidentiality means that your communication to me is held in strict confidence (kept private). Your clinical file is safeguarded and the information contained in the file will not be revealed to anyone without your written permission, or the permission to the custodial parent or guardian. Likewise, I will not obtain information from other agencies or services without talking to you first and getting your permission.

However, there are some important exceptions to confidentiality. Before we begin our work together, I want to be sure that you are aware of these exceptions and understand them.

1. In accordance with California State law, therapists are required to report child and elderly abuse (physical, sexual, emotional and/or neglect).
2. If a client informs me of a specific intent to bring harm to her/himself or to another person, I will take action to insure the safety of the client or the intended victim. If necessary, I may be further obligated to inform the appropriate medical or legal authorities.
3. If I am summoned by subpoena to testify in court, I will assert "privileged communication" however, the judge may overrule the privilege and still request information. Every attempt will be made to prevent disclosure before releasing such information.

In most cases of exceptions to confidentiality, it is my policy, when appropriate to first notify you of the necessity to breach confidentiality before information is released.

In signing this document, I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to ask question about this policy and that I understand it. Also, in signing, I understand that I am waiving my rights to confidentiality under the three exceptions listed above.

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Date

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Signature of client or parent/guardian

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Signature of Therapist