



"Healing Life through the Experience of Living"

INFORMED CONSENT FOR BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Principles for the Provision of Behavioral/Mental Health Services

Crawford Consulting and Mental Health Services is committed to providing quality behavioral Health services to children and their families without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disabilities.

Choice

You have the right to choose any duly licensed/certified professional for behavioral/mental health services. You have the right to receive full information regarding the education and training of professionals, treatment options (including risks and benefits), and cost implications to make an informed choice regarding the selection of care deemed appropriate by individual and professional.

Therapist Qualifications

Crawford Consulting and Mental Health Services clinicians have professional training conducting behavioral/mental health treatment. You have the right to inquire fully about the credentials, education, and experience of your child's therapist and to have your questions answered to your satisfaction. In this practice, treatment is provided wither by a licensed member of a behavioral/mental health profession (psychology, psychiatry, social work, or counseling) or else by an unlicensed professional with training enabling him or her practice under the supervision of a licensed professional. If your child's therapist is an unlicensed professional, you will receive an explanation of the supervision arrangement and the name and phone number of the supervisor.

What to Expect from Treatment

Your child's (your) therapist will work to provide the most effective treatment possible. Studies of psychotherapy indicate that most clients benefit from treatment and experience improvement in the problem areas for which services were sought. However, treatment benefits, while likely, cannot be guaranteed. Response to therapy is different for each client and should be discussed on an ongoing basis with your child's therapist.

Psychotherapy can involve a variety of different activities, which vary from person to person. In general, your therapist will assess your child's problems and then will provide therapeutic services designed to resolve or reduce the problems. There may be individual work with your child (you), discussion with you possibly including ways to help your child outside of therapy, and/or family sessions. Therapy may focus on feelings, thoughts, relationships, and/or behaviors. With young children, therapy generally includes play activities used as a means of understanding and communicating with the child.

Determination of Treatment Modality

Recommendations regarding mental health and substance abuse treatment shall be made only by a duly licensed/certified professional in conjunction with you and your child. You have the right to make final decisions regarding treatment.

Confidentiality

Historically, psychotherapy was associated with complete confidentiality between the family and clinician. Currently, both law and professional ethics require therapists to maintain complete confidentiality in the vast majority of cases. In these cases, the therapist cannot release any information about your family without your expressed permission. However, as a result of legal developments, there are some exceptional circumstances in which therapists are required to communicate information about therapy to persons outside the family. These expectations include the following situations:

- ✓ The client presents a clear and present danger to himself or herself and refuses to accept appropriate treatment.
- ✓ The client communicates to the therapist a threat of physical violence against a clearly identified or reasonably identifiable victim, or the therapist has a reasonable basis to believe there is a clear and present danger of physical violence against such a victim.
- ✓ The client initiates legal action against the therapist.
- ✓ The therapist has grounds to believe a child under the age of 18 or an elderly person (over age 60), or a handicapped adult, has been, or is at risk of being abused or neglected.
- ✓ A judge orders the therapist to release client information.

It should also be noted that insurance companies reimbursing behavioral/mental health services require information about these services. Therefore, if you are using insurance to pay for your child's treatment, information will be released to your insurer as appropriate for reimbursement purposes only.

Appeals and Grievances

You have the right to receive information about how to submit complaints or grievances regarding provision of care by your child's therapist to CCMHS and to the profession's regulatory board and/or professional association.

Financial Arrangements

The fees for all therapeutic services will be satisfied upon completion of sessions rendered on the date of service unless prior arrangements have been made.

Advance Directives

Information is available regarding Advance Directives. Advance Directives refers to a plan for how you would like to be treated in the event that you should become incapacitated at some point in the future. You may, for example, request that you be taken to a certain hospital at the earliest opportunity in the event of emergency; you may state your preference of physician or therapist; you may indicate if there are any specific needs that must be addressed while you are incapacitated (i.e., two dogs at home who need to be boarded). Your therapist can work with you in developing an Advance Directive plan for your records if you choose to do so.

____ Yes, I would like more information on Advance Directives

____ No, I would not like to have more information about Advance Directives