

**George A. Torrice, MA, NHLMHC, CCMHC**  
*27 Lowell Street, Suite 307*  
*Manchester, New Hampshire 03101*

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**MINORS SERVICE CONTRACT**

Generally, the treatment of a minor child (under the age of 18) must be authorized by a parent or someone else with legal authority. Parental control over a minor's treatment includes the authority to access or release the child's otherwise confidential treatment records. Even parents without residential responsibility for a child retain decision-making authority over the child's treatment and treatment records unless a court has ordered otherwise.

When parents with decision-making authority cannot agree on access to or release of their child's confidential treatment information, a court will decide following a hearing.

I believe it is best to identify and resolve potential parental agreements before treatment begins. Therefore, it is my policy to treat minors only with the consent of both parents, to the extent both are available. If both are available but cannot reach agreement about treatment and access to records, it is the responsibility of the parents to resolve their differences through a court hearing prior to instituting treatment.

If one parent is unavailable and we determine that it is appropriate to proceed with the consent of only one parent, the absent parent will have a right to the child's treatment records upon request while the child is a minor unless there is a court order to the contrary. If continuation of treatment becomes an issue, it is the responsibility of the parents to resolve the disagreement in court.

Upon turning 18, the child gains control over treatment, information and records.

I try to honor the minor's privacy in areas where it will be helpful to the minor's therapy. Therefore, I ask parents to rely on my judgment on what needs to be released.

Also, under New Hampshire law, minors twelve (12) years old and older have a right to confidentiality in matters of substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases. When a minor turns eighteen (18) years old, control of the treatment, information and records revert to said minor.

If the minor's parents are divorced or are separated, I require a copy of the pertinent decree or stipulation so that the terms of custody and visitations are provided for me. Remember, the minor, not the parent, is the client. Any information given by either parent or guardian becomes part of the minor's record and may be seen by either parent or guardian.

Be aware that I schedule 50-minute sessions. It is very important that you (or your designated responsible adult) be present at the end of each session. The office is not equipped to provide supervision for your child. Your child's safety and well-being is of utmost concern. Please arrange your schedule accordingly.

By our signatures below, we are stating our understanding and agreement to the statement on minors:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date