



Purpose: Obtaining legal consent for child and adolescent counseling evaluations.

Policy:

Decisions about behavioral health care must be made by the child's legal guardian(s), who must be physically present to provide consent, have an opportunity to be fully informed of the evaluation process, be provided with an opportunity to ask questions, and in order for identity to be verified. In the situation of a parental separation or divorce (except in the case of one parent having sole physical and legal custody), both parents **MUST** consent, in writing, to the behavioral health evaluation, and both parents are invited and encouraged (as they are able) to participate in the process of evaluation and treatment. If one parent retains sole physical and legal custody, this parent **MUST** provide legal documentation of this in order for the behavioral health evaluation to occur as scheduled. Both parents, regardless of custody, have a legal right to medical records.