



## **Minor Consent Agreement**

### **CONSENT AND LEGAL CUSTODY**

Per Minnesota law, some parents have legal custody. Parents with legal custody are authorized to make decisions about a minor's medical and mental healthcare, including the right to give informed consent for treatment to occur and to authorize the release of confidential information to a third party.

When parents are separated or divorced, Ellie Mental Health will presume they retain equal legal custody rights to minor children unless and until documentation noting alternative custodial rights is provided.

In situations where parents were never married, mothers have legal custody (unless their rights have been terminated or limited by court order). Fathers may have also been granted legal custody by court order. It is important Ellie is provided a copy of that court order.

Ellie Mental Health encourages and welcomes parents to be involved in services as deemed appropriate and contributory to the child's therapeutic progress. It is important that all parents can contribute information and perspective about a minor child to the treating provider, particularly when the provider is establishing a diagnosis and treatment plan. Ellie Mental Health will make efforts to ensure all parents have that opportunity.

It is the responsibility of guardians to coordinate scheduling and communicate with one another regarding relevant therapy session content.

Paperwork sent through the client portal is only able to be accessed and signed by a single e-mail address. Divorced and co-parenting individuals are encouraged to coordinate access to the client portal through a single, joint email address and/or coordinate the dissemination of information and signing duties between themselves.

### **SAFE HARBOR**

Safe Harbor is an agreement that legal guardians sign regarding the purpose and use of therapy for minors. It is best practice for minor clients to have a Safe Harbor agreement on file and signed by any parent/guardian who retains rights to access a minor's treatment information or documentation. Individual clinicians may refuse to work with minor clients whose parent/guardian refuse to sign this document.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Clinicians will involve parents in the therapeutic treatment of a minor in a manner that meets the developmental and presenting needs of a child. Clinicians recognize the need for minor clients to have privacy and confidentiality within therapy sessions as well. Confidentiality of the minor will be maintained in accordance with the law. Confidentiality may be broken in situations outlined within the broader client consent or when the clinician deems it appropriate and necessary for minor's ongoing safety or treatment progression.

Per Minnesota law, all parents whose rights have not been terminated (or otherwise limited by court order) have a right to access information about a minor's medical and mental healthcare.

Records will be shared with parents and/or legal guardians when requested in writing and a signed Release of Information is Provided. However, the clinician and Ellie reserve the right to redact or refuse the release of records when the client's safety or wellbeing could be compromised. Additionally, the Safe Harbor agreement provides additional information on permissible uses of records.

## **CUSTODIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Clinicians will support children through difficult life situations in accordance with their treatment plans. Ellie clinicians cannot and will not make recommendations regarding child custody or visitation arrangements, custodial rights, or placement.

## **CARE COORDINATION and MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Clinicians recognize the importance of being a supportive member of a child's team and will offer consultation and support as they are able. Minor clinicians reserve the right to bill insurance plans or the guardian privately for time spent attending meetings or providing consultation. Private pay agreements will be discussed prior to meeting/event. Ability to attend meetings is subject to the availability of individual clinicians and cannot be guaranteed.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication with parent/guardians and additional members of a child's team is often essential to therapeutic progress. Clinicians will respond to communication from parents/guardians and others as they are able. Clinicians are unable to provide thorough recommendations, interventions, or parental support through email or text communication. Should more than a brief answer be required, please schedule a session with your minor's treating therapist to ensure they can be as helpful as possible.

## **SCHOOL EXCUSE NOTICE**

A school excuse letter can be requested from your child's clinician for absences caused by appointment attendance. This will be provided to the parent directly for distribution to necessary individuals/systems.

**PAYMENT FOR SERVICES**

In signing consent forms, the minor’s parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to assume any fees for services. Payment arrangements between legal custodians are the responsibilities of the legal custodians. Ellie Mental Health is not able to provide divided billing statements.

**ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY DURING APPOINTMENTS**

For minors under 16 years of age, a responsible adult must be present and/or easily available during any in-person appointments unless specifically arranged with the child’s clinician. For minors over 16 years of age and services delivered via telehealth, a parent/guardian must be able to be easily contacted during appointment times should an emergency arise. Clinicians reserve the right to require a responsible adult’s presence for either office-based or telehealth appointments in order for services to occur.

By signing this document, I consent for my minor child to be treated by Ellie Mental Health and agree to the above policies regarding Ellie Mental Health’s provision of therapy services to my minor child. Parent/guardian MUST sign below. Minor signature is not valid.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*By signing this, you attest that you have legal custody of your minor child and have legal decision-making capabilities