

Consent to Counseling with a Minor

**Janet Ferguson, MA, Marriage and Family Therapist Candidate, LLC, Registered Psychotherapist
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Any child under the age of fifteen (15) must have a parent or legal guardian consent to the mental health services to be provided. Any child fifteen (15) years of age or older may consent to mental health services without the consent of a parent or legal guardian.

The law generally provides parent(s)/guardian the right to examine the treatment records of a minor under the age of eighteen (18), with some exceptions. However, it is critical for treatment for the child/minor to trust their therapist. With your agreement and understanding of that need, I will keep what your child says/does confidential. In other words, if I think it would be helpful to share a specific detail with you, I will first ask the child's permission to do so, or encourage the child to do so. It is important to the therapy process that he/she does not think the parent and the therapist are conspiring against him/her in any way. You have the right and responsibility to question the therapy process, to understand the nature of activities with the child, and to be informed of the child's progress. I have the right to use my clinical discretion as to what is appropriate disclosure. I will review the child's progress in therapy with you, and want to obtain feedback from you regarding your interactions with the child and observations of the child in various settings. In this way, we will work as a team. I will discuss with you how you can participate effectively in the child's treatment and progress outside of therapy.

PARENT AGREEMENT FOR THERAPY WITH A MINOR:

The minor(s) named below live in my home and I am 18 years of age or older. Yes No

Name of Child: _____ Child's Date of Birth: _____

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Your Name (please print): _____

Your relationship to child(ren): Parent Stepparent Guardian Grandparent Other

I hereby swear that I have the following **legal custody** (circle appropriate): Joint Sole None

I hereby swear that I have a legal right to obtain treatment for the above-named child(ren): Yes No

In instances of divorce, it is essential that the legal custodian of the child(ren) grant permission for the services. If you are a divorced parent, a stepparent, a grandparent, a guardian, or other, you may be asked to provide a copy of the court order which names you the legal custodian of the above child(ren). Are you willing to do so? Yes No

If the answer to any of the above questions is "No," counseling services can not be provided to the above-named child(ren) until a copy of the court order which names you the legal custodian is provided to this office.

- I have read, understand, and agree to the *HIPAA Privacy Statement* and the *Mandatory Disclosure Statement* for Janet Ferguson, MA, MFTC, LLC.
- I agree to abide by the terms/policies set forth in this document.
- I consent to have the above named minor(s) receive therapeutic services provided through Janet Ferguson, MFTC, LLC, without a parent or guardian present.

Signature of person authorizing consent of services

Date