



# Steven S. Minter, Th.M., Psy.D.

Clinical Psychology

Licensed Psychologist/PY 8553

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## New Client Addendum: Minors

### 1. Privacy regarding minors:

With regard to informed consent and confidentiality, in Florida the legal guardian(s) of the minor patient has the right to request clinical information, including the content of therapeutic conversations. In order to protect my therapeutic alliance with an adolescent, as well as honor his or her trust, I will usually be very general and vague with guardians concerning the content of conversations, unless there are safety issues involved. Safety issues involve things such as certain types of drug use, criminal activity, some forms of sexual activity, or possibility of elopement. If these issues are causing concern, I will discuss with the minor how to best involve the person's legally responsible for the student's care and safety. Failing to reach a collaborative agreement with the minor on the issue, I will inform the guardians.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

### 2. Legal issues regarding minors:

Our society is filled with litigation. In the case of families, these concerns may range from criminal charges, divorce proceedings, child support issues, or custody issues. I typically do not testify in court proceedings. The reason is that the legal process is concerned with advocacy and its nature is adversarial. The mental health treatment process is concerned with healing and its nature is collaborative. These processes often conflict and force the psychologist to assume a dual role with regard to the client. This poses a threat to good clinical practice in general and to the therapeutic relationship with the minor in particular. Please understand that even though your case may have merit and, in fact, may be essential to your minor's ability to move forward successfully in his/her life, I will not be able to participate in it. If subpoenaed for testimony, I will object. This usually results in subpoenas being cancelled. If subpoenaed for records, I may assert privilege on behalf of the minor at the request of the parents, or I may assert "mature minor" privilege under Florida statute. \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian initial)

Is any legal process currently in place concerning the child OR anticipated in the future ?  yes  no

### 3. Consent to Treatment:

Sometimes separated parents are not in agreement about mental health treatment for their child. To avoid conflicts, it is important to me that all parties with legal decision-making authority for the child agree to treatment. Do ALL legal guardians consent to adolescent's evaluation and/or treatment?  yes  no

### 4. Older Adolescents:

*I hereby grant Dr. Minter permission to treat my child when he/she arrives at the office without a guardian.*

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_