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## **ADDENDUM TO PSYCHOLOGIST- CLIENT SERVICES AGREEMENT CONFIDENTIALTY WITH MINORS & PARENTS**

Patients between 12 and 18 years of age who are not emancipated may consent to psychological services subject to the involvement of their parents or guardian unless the psychologist determines that their involvement would be inappropriate. Specifically a patient over age 12 may consent to psychological services if he or she is mature enough to participate intelligently in such services, and the minor patient either would present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to him or herself or others without treatment, or is the alleged victim of incest or child abuse. In addition, patients over age 12 may consent to alcohol and drug treatment in some circumstances. In cases where the parent or guardian has sought medical care and counseling for the minor child's drug or alcohol related problem, I am required to disclose such information to the parents or guardian even if the minor patient does not consent to such disclosure. Unemancipated patients under 18 years of age and their parents should be aware that the law may allow parents to examine their child's treatment records unless I determine that access would have a detrimental effect on my professional relationship with the patient, or to his/her physical safety or psychological well-being. **Because privacy in psychotherapy is often crucial to successful progress, particularly with teenagers, and parental involvement, is also essential, it is usually my policy to request an agreement with minors over age 12 and their parents about what information will be shared and how I will share it.** This agreement provides that if I see him or her individually, I will ask the adolescent client what he or she does not want me to share with anyone. We will talk about what you don't want me to share and we will handle it together. I will never mention anything to your parents before you and I talk it over together, unless I believe that you or someone else is in immediate danger. I work as a family psychologist, which means that I will also expect your parents to work hard in treatment and consider changes as well. This requires that I have the ability to speak with everyone involved.