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**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Everything that happens in your therapy session is confidential. This means that you must give your permission before any information about your therapy is released to a third party. There are, however, some important exceptions to this rule that you should know about. The most important exceptions are listed below.

**DANGER TO SELF.** If your therapist believes that you are in danger of committing suicide or otherwise seriously harming yourself, confidentiality does not hold. Your therapist has the option of breaking confidentiality to notify appropriate people or agencies (for example, your relatives or the police) in order to protect you.

**DANGER TO OTHERS.** If your therapist believes you are a danger to another person or a person's property, confidentiality does not hold. Your therapist is required to report this information to the person in danger and to an appropriate agency (such as the police).

**CHILD ENDANGERMENT.** If your therapist believes that a child has been physically abused, emotionally abused, neglected or molested, confidentiality does not hold. Your therapist is required to report this information to an appropriate agency (such as the police or Child Protective Services).

**ELDER ABUSE.** If your therapist has reason to believe that a person 65 or older, or a dependent adult, has been abused (physically, sexually, emotionally or financially) or has been isolated or abandoned, confidentiality does not hold. Your therapist is required to report this information to an appropriate agency.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.** In certain legal actions (for example, if you sue someone and claim emotional injury) your medical/psychiatric records can be subpoenaed by the opposing party. Talk to your attorney if you are involved in any legal action.

**INSURANCE/THIRD PARTY PAYMENT.** If your insurance company/HMO is paying for all or part of your treatment, they may have the right to obtain information about your diagnosis and treatment. Check with your insurance company for details.

These are the major exceptions to confidentiality. Please understand that if certain issues come up in a therapy session, your therapist may have to disclose them. Feel free to discuss this with Dr. Persinger if you have any questions.

*I have read and understand this information*

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature of patient or legally responsible adult

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
relationship to patient