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Synergy Psychiatry VT

Shelburne VT

**Patient Rights & Confidentiality**

Access to treatment shall be impartial and free of discrimination by race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or handicap. Care and treatment shall recognize and respect the personal dignity of the patient. As my patient, you have a right to individualized treatment to best support your growth and development. We will work together as a team to establish this ever-changing process. You and your child will be informed of risks, side effects, and benefits of all medications and treatments. You, or your child, have the right to refuse any and all medications and treatments at any point along our work together. We will work as a team to establish best care for you or your child, which may at times means ending our work together.

With the exception noted below, absolutely no patient information will be given to any agency or person. This includes not telling anyone else if you, or your child, are even my patient when asked directly. I will only release information to someone else, including other medical professionals, after you, or your legal guardian, have signed a “Consent for the Release of Information.” The only exception to this is in the case of emergency to help assist in appropriate and necessary care of the patient.

When a minor is the primary patient, their interests are paramount. Confidentiality will be upheld for them as well, unless there is concern about the safety of the minor or those in their surroundings. If appropriate I will inform the guardians of my concerns. As a mandatory reporter, if needed I will have to contact the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect. To clarify, if a minor discloses any intention to inflict physical harm to self or another animal/person, I will tell the legal guardian and will need to involve emergency services if safety cannot be established. I also have to contact the DCF if, in my professional judgment, I have reason to suspect any abuse or neglect of a minor, even if that child is not my patient. I also have to contact DCF if anyone older than 14 tells me that s/he committed child abuse, even if the victim is no longer in danger. I am also mandated to report suspected child abuse if anyone tells me that s/he knows of any child who is currently being abused. I will also have to break confidentiality if I receive a signed, valid court order requesting records.