



## Informed Consent for ABA

The following document contains information regarding the provision of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services provided by Gulf Breeze ABA. All services provided by Gulf Breeze ABA are delivered by an individual who is credentialed through the board of Behavior Analysis. All services are delivered via a HIPAA compliant, telehealth platform with the use of video and audio.

### Professional Background

Chelsea S. Plantz, owner of Gulf Breeze ABA, is subject to the law and ethics of numerous governing bodies, including the Behavior Analytic Certification Board (BACB).

### Confidentiality

You are entitled to privacy in regards to the pursuit of ABA services. This means that your clinician cannot share, without your express written permission, that you are working with Gulf Breeze ABA. There are, however, some exceptions to this. Limits to confidentiality include the following items:

1. Gulf Breeze ABA is required by law to report to the authorities the following circumstances: Suspected past, current, or the possibility of future child abuse/neglect. Suspected past, current, or the possibility of future viewing of child pornography. Suspected past, current, or the possibility of future elder/dependent adult abuse/neglect. If the client is a danger to himself/herself or if Gulf Breeze ABA has knowledge that the client is a danger to someone else. In the event that a report has to be made, Gulf Breeze ABA will make all efforts to include the client/parent/legal guardian in this process; however, understand that this is not always possible. Gulf Breeze ABA is committed to working through whatever issues that may arise as a result of a legally mandated report.
2. If you are utilizing your health insurance to pay for services, the insurance company may require Gulf Breeze ABA to disclose information regarding your treatment in order to determine whether or not they will pay for services, or whether or not they will reimburse you for services.
3. Gulf Breeze ABA will utilize a collection service for unpaid balances on services rendered. All efforts will be made to resolve the issue without resorting to this, but if you are unresponsive to these efforts then Gulf Breeze ABA will initiate collection services. If this occurs, understand

that certain personal information will need to be disclosed to this agency. Gulf Breeze ABA will only disclose the minimum amount necessary to collect payment.

4. Gulf Breeze ABA can also ultimately be ordered by court order or judge to disclose clinical material. We will make efforts beforehand to try and reach a compromise if needed, but ultimately, if ordered by a judge, we must disclose the requested material. In extreme circumstances this can include the entire clinical record.

5. Although Gulf Breeze ABA is permitted to utilize cell phone, video conference and email communication, we need to make you aware that this communication can be intercepted, and therefore we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

6. At times it may be beneficial for Gulf Breeze ABA to collaborate with other individuals you/the client are working with, e.g. teachers, psychiatrists, physicians, and/or other collateral service providers. If it appears that collateral service provider information would inform your child's treatment, Gulf Breeze ABA will obtain a signed release from you so that we may collaborate with this/these individual(s).

7. In the treatment of children in particular, it is very helpful for Gulf Breeze ABA to collaborate with teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, etc. in order to best serve your family. Gulf Breeze ABA will consult with you regarding any releases that seem appropriate, as well as discuss the nature and scope of any information shared.

### **Treatment of Children of Separated or Divorced Parents**

In the treatment of children whose parents are separated or divorced, a number of issues can arise. By signing this document, you confirm that you understand and are in agreement with the following policies:

1. Each guardian will be given equal time with Gulf Breeze ABA staff regardless of which guardian initially contacts Gulf Breeze ABA. A court order will need to be on file with Gulf Breeze ABA if any requests are made by either guardian to limit guardian interaction, ability to participate or obtain records.

2. Exceptions to these policies may include but are not limited to: when a guardian lives out of state, is incarcerated, has a restraining order in place against him/her, has no contact with the child(ren)/family, and/or does not have legal authority to make decisions regarding the mental health treatment of their child (as specified in court documentation). Gulf Breeze ABA is available to consult by phone or via telehealth with parents who live out of state, and these sessions will be billed at the agreed upon fee.

3. Gulf Breeze ABA will not make recommendations regarding visitation or custody. Gulf Breeze ABA does not employ forensic psychologists who are trained in this type of evaluation. Therefore, Gulf Breeze ABA clinicians will not communicate with attorneys for either parent. Exceptions include when required by law (e.g. court order or subpoena). Please provide Gulf Breeze ABA with a copy of the section within your divorce decree and/or court order that specifies legal custody agreement.

### **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Service**

ABA services are designed to reduce/eliminate challenging or maladaptive behavior, and teach new replacement behaviors. This is done by changing the client's environment. This includes, training and teaching parents, siblings, teachers, paraeducators, etc., how to interact with the individual, and creating more support systems in the environment. All services provided by Gulf Breeze ABA will be by a telehealth, HIPAA compliant platform.

### **Insurance Funded Services**

Insurance companies that are not self-funded are legally required to cover ABA services for an individual who has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) if the services are determined to be medically necessary. Therefore, most insurance companies require proof of ASD diagnosis, data collection on goals, progress reports, and questionnaires completed by the family. Failure to complete insurance requirements in a timely manner may result in a lapse of ABA services. Furthermore, it is the guardian's responsibility to notify Gulf Breeze ABA if there are any changes to an insurance policy with as much notice as possible. If previously authorized services are delivered outside of the authorization period or billed to an insurance policy that the family no longer has coverage under, the guardian/responsible party will be responsible for privately paying for these services.

### **Functional Behavior Assessments (FBA)**

1. Interview of family and other caretakers; Observation of the Client via telehealth
2. Observation of Client in community location; time dependent on behavioral severity.
3. Review of Report with Family or Review of Report at IEP at the child's school.

Feedback Appointment is **REQUIRED**. Report will not be released without a feedback session. Parent(s) will be given copies of the report. Typically FBAs take on average, 8-10 hours to complete. Insurance is billed for face-to-face time, administration of tests, scoring/interpretation of tests, analysis of data, report writing, and feedback. Parent Training: Gulf Breeze ABA focuses on parent and caregiver guidance and training. It is our philosophy that caregiver involvement will aid in long term generalization of skills. This service will be conducted via telehealth, based on a Gulf Breeze ABA clinician's recommendation. Parents and Caregivers are able to schedule appointments at [www.gulfbreezeaba.com](http://www.gulfbreezeaba.com) at their convenience. Florida Medicaid clients and families will be limited to 2 hours of telehealth parent training per week. Length of Treatment ABA services are typically authorized in 6 month periods; however insurance companies vary in the amount of time that is typically authorized. Self-pay families will not have limitation, and it will be at the assessment and discretion of the provider. Gulf Breeze ABA highly recommends agreeing to and scheduling all hours the funding source authorizes or is recommended based off initial assessments; failure to do so makes it difficult to request an increase in hours in the future if an increase is needed. At the end of the reporting period, Gulf Breeze ABA will make a recommendation to continue services at the current authorization period, reduce hours, or increase hours. Explanation for services will be written up in a progress report and shared with the family and the funding source. If Gulf Breeze ABA believes you are terminating your child's therapy before adequate treatment has been received, Gulf Breeze ABA will provide you with referrals for other mental health professionals. You can also decide to continue therapy with another mental health professional or ABA agency of your choosing.

## Treatment Concerns

Gulf Breeze ABA is committed to working with our client's and their families. Please contact us at [info@gulfbreezeaba.com](mailto:info@gulfbreezeaba.com) about any concerns regarding treatment at any time.

## Signature for Informed Consent

By signing below, you certify that you have read all of the information provided above, understand it, are in agreement with it, and consent to proceed with treatment. Your signature also indicates that you have been provided with the opportunity to ask questions. This authorization remains in effect until services are terminated.

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Client/Child Name

DOB

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Guardian's Name (Printed)

Guardian's Signature

Date

\*If you are signing on behalf of the client, please state your relationship to him/her \_\_\_\_\_