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A message to my patients about Arbitration:

The contract below is an arbitration agreement. By signing this agreement, we are agreeing that any dispute arising out of the medical services you receive is to be resolved in binding arbitration rather than a suit in court. I believe the method of resolving disputes by arbitration is one of the fairest systems for both patients and physicians. Arbitration agreements between health care providers and their patients have long been recognized and approved by the California courts. By signing this agreement you are changing the place where your claim will be presented. You may still call witnesses and present evidence. Each party selects an arbitrator (party arbitrators), who then select a third, neutral arbitrator. These three arbitrators hear the case. This agreement generally helps to limit the legal costs for both patients and physicians. Further, both parties are spared some of the rigors of trial and the publicity that may accompany judicial proceedings. Of course, my goal is to provide medical care in such a way as to avoid any such disputes. I know that most problems begin with communication. Therefore, if you have any questions about your care, please ask me.

PATIENT ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

By signing this agreement, the patient agrees with the provider that any dispute between you and Cheryl Jones-Dix, LCSW. and any dispute relating to medical services rendered for any condition, including any services rendered prior to the date this agreement was signed, and any dispute arising out of the diagnosis, treatment, or care of the patient, including the scope of this arbitration clause and the arbitrability of any claim or dispute, against whomever made (including, to the full extent permitted by applicable law, third parties who are not signatories to this agreement) shall be resolved by binding arbitration. Any award of the arbitrator(s) may be entered as a judgment in any court having jurisdiction. In the event a court having jurisdiction finds any portion of this agreement unenforceable, that portion shall not be effective and the remainder of the agreement shall remain effective. This agreement shall be governed by and interpreted under the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16.

This agreement binds all parties whose claims may arise out of or relate to treatment or service provided by the physician, including any spouse or heirs of the patient and any children, whether born or unborn, at the time of the occurrence giving rise to any claim. In the case of any pregnant mother, the term "patient" herein shall mean both the mother and the mother's expected child or children. This provision for arbitration may be revoked by written notice delivered to the physician within 30 days of signature.

If the patient intends this agreement to cover services rendered before the date it is signed (including, but not limited to, emergency treatment) patient should initial below:

Effective as of the date of first medical services: Patient/Responsible Party Initials: _____

The patient understands that the result of this arbitration agreement is that claims, including malpractice claims he/she may have against the physician, cannot be brought as a lawsuit in court before a judge or jury, and agrees that all such claims will be resolved as described in this section.

Client name – printed

Client name – printed

Client Signature

Client Signature

Date