

SENSORY INCLUSIVE HAIRCUT

Parent and Guardian Client Information Form

Comfort | Communication | Trust | Positive Haircare Experience

Thank you for sharing information before the service. Every person experiences sensory input differently. The information you provide helps the barber or hairstylist prepare the environment, communicate appropriately, reduce unnecessary sensory stress, and provide the safest and most comfortable service possible.

A diagnosis is not required to request sensory accommodations. Please share only information that is relevant to the hair service. This form is not a medical evaluation and does not replace medical or behavioral guidance.

1. CLIENT INFORMATION

Client Name

Age

Parent or Guardian Name

Phone Number

Emergency Contact

Date of Appointment

Preferred Name

Date of Birth

Relationship to Client

Email

Emergency Contact Phone

Barber or Hairstylist

2. TELL US ABOUT YOUR CLIENT

Does the client experience sensory sensitivities?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

Is the client on the autism spectrum or otherwise neurodivergent?

A diagnosis is not necessary for sensory accommodations.

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Prefer not to answer

Please tell us anything you believe would help us better understand your client:

3. COMMUNICATION

How does the client communicate most comfortably? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Verbal communication | ☐ Short verbal instructions |
| ☐ Gestures | ☐ Pointing |
| ☐ Picture communication | ☐ Communication device |
| ☐ Sign language | ☐ Parent or guardian assistance |
| ☐ Other | |

Does the client usually understand verbal instructions?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ Sometimes | ☐ No |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Does the client respond well to their name being called?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ Sometimes | ☐ No |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

How should the barber or hairstylist get the client's attention?

Communication approaches that may help. Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ One instruction at a time | ☐ Demonstration before the service |
| ☐ See the tool before it is used | ☐ Know each step before it happens |
| ☐ Minimal conversation | ☐ Frequent reassurance |
| ☐ Parent or guardian explains each step | ☐ Other |

Words or phrases that are especially helpful:

Words, phrases, or instructions that should be avoided:

4. TOUCH SENSITIVITY - COMFORT BY AREA

	Comfortable	Sometimes	Sensitive
Head	☐	☐	☐
Scalp	☐	☐	☐
Forehead	☐	☐	☐
Ears	☐	☐	☐
Face	☐	☐	☐
Neck	☐	☐	☐
Shoulders	☐	☐	☐

Are there areas that should not be touched without warning?

Does the client need to be told before being touched?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Does firm touch work better than light touch?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Please explain any touch preferences:

5. HAIRCUT TOOLS AND SENSORY EXPERIENCES

	Comfortable	Tolerates	Dislikes	Unknown
Clippers	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clippers near the ears	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trimmers	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scissors	☐	☐	☐	☐
Comb	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brush	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spray bottle	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Comfortable	Tolerates	Dislikes	Unknown
Water on the hair	☐	☐	☐	☐
Water near the face	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shampooing	☐	☐	☐	☐
Blow dryer	☐	☐	☐	☐
Haircutting cape	☐	☐	☐	☐
Neck strip	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hair touching the skin	☐	☐	☐	☐
Products or fragrances	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mirror	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please describe any additional concerns regarding tools or equipment:

6. SOUND SENSITIVITY

Is the client sensitive to sound?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Which sounds may be uncomfortable? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Hair clippers | ☐ Trimmers |
| ☐ Blow dryers | ☐ Music |
| ☐ Television | ☐ Multiple conversations |
| ☐ Children crying | ☐ People talking or laughing loudly |
| ☐ Doors opening or closing | ☐ Other |

Would the client benefit from any of the following?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Quieter appointment time | ☐ Reduced music |
| ☐ Reduced conversation | ☐ Headphones |
| ☐ Ear protection when practical | ☐ Advance warning before noisy equipment |
| ☐ Other | |

7. LIGHT AND VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Is the client sensitive to bright lighting?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Is the client sensitive to any of the following? Select all that apply.

☐ Bright overhead lights ☐ Flashing lights
☐ Television screens ☐ Mirrors
☐ Busy environments ☐ People moving around them
☐ Large crowds ☐ Other

Would a quieter or less visually stimulating area be helpful?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

8. SMELL AND PRODUCT SENSITIVITY

Is the client sensitive to fragrances or smells?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

Does the client have sensitivities to any of the following? Select all that apply.

☐ Hair products ☐ Aftershave
☐ Shampoo ☐ Conditioner
☐ Cleaning products ☐ Disinfectants
☐ Perfume or cologne ☐ Other

Are there products you prefer we avoid?

Please list any known product allergies or reactions relevant to the service:

9. THE HAIRCUT CAPE

Does the client tolerate wearing a haircutting cape?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes ☐ Unknown

If not, what may work better? Select all that apply.

☐ Towel ☐ Alternative covering
☐ No cape when practical ☐ Client's own covering
☐ Other

Does the client dislike anything touching the neck?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Sometimes

Please explain:

10. POSITIONING DURING THE SERVICE

Where is the client most comfortable receiving the haircut?

☐ Barber or styling chair

☐ Parent or guardian lap

☐ Standing

☐ Alternative chair

☐ Other

Does the client have difficulty sitting still for extended periods?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Sometimes

Approximately how long can the client comfortably remain seated?

Would movement breaks be helpful?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

11. TRANSITIONS AND PREPARATION

How does the client respond to changes or unfamiliar situations?

☐ Comfortable with change

☐ Needs some preparation

☐ Needs significant preparation

☐ Varies by situation

Would the client benefit from any of the following? Select all that apply.

☐ See the shop before appointment day

☐ Meet the barber or stylist beforehand

☐ See the chair before sitting down

☐ See or touch tools before use

☐ Watch another person receive a haircut

☐ Pictures showing the haircut process

☐ Visual schedule

☐ Countdown before transitions

☐ Timer

☐ Know how many steps remain

☐ Know when the haircut will end

☐ Other

12. COMFORT ITEMS AND REGULATION

What helps the client feel safe or calm? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Favorite toy | ☐ Tablet or phone |
| ☐ Video | ☐ Music |
| ☐ Headphones | ☐ Fidget item |
| ☐ Stuffed animal | ☐ Blanket |
| ☐ Snack | ☐ Parent or guardian nearby |
| ☐ Holding a familiar object | ☐ Taking breaks |
| ☐ Deep pressure | ☐ Movement |
| ☐ Quiet | ☐ Other |

Favorite interests, characters, shows, music, or topics that may help the barber or hairstylist connect with the client:

13. SIGNS OF STRESS OR OVERLOAD

What are the first signs that your client is becoming uncomfortable or overwhelmed?

Examples may include covering ears, pulling away, rocking, becoming quiet, increased movement, vocalizing, crying, asking to leave, removing the cape, or difficulty following instructions.

What should the barber or hairstylist do when these signs appear? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Stop immediately | ☐ Pause the service |
| ☐ Give the client space | ☐ Allow a movement break |
| ☐ Reduce sound | ☐ Remove the cape |
| ☐ Allow parent or guardian to assist | ☐ Explain what will happen next |
| ☐ Offer a comfort item | ☐ End the service if necessary |
| ☐ Other | |

What usually helps your client regulate?

14. BREAKS

Does the client need breaks during hair services?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Sometimes

How frequently?

How should the barber or hairstylist know that the client needs a break?

☐ Client will say it

☐ Client will signal

☐ Parent or guardian will indicate it

☐ Watch for signs of distress

☐ Other

What word or signal should we use for a break?

15. PREVIOUS HAIRCUT EXPERIENCES

Has the client received a professional haircut before?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, how did the experience go?

☐ Very well

☐ Well

☐ Difficult

☐ Very difficult

What worked well during previous haircuts?

What did not work well?

Has the client ever had to stop a haircut before it was completed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain what happened:

16. HAIRCUT PREFERENCES

What service are you requesting today?

What is most important for today's appointment? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Completing the entire haircut | ☐ Helping the client become comfortable in the environment |
| ☐ Building trust with the barber or hairstylist | ☐ Completing as much as the client comfortably allows |
| ☐ Introducing haircutting tools | ☐ Practicing sitting in the chair |
| ☐ Other | |

Are you comfortable with the haircut being completed over more than one appointment if necessary?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ No | ☐ Let's discuss |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

17. CLIENT CHOICE AND CONSENT

Please describe how your client typically communicates the following. If the client appears distressed or indicates a desire to stop, the service should pause so the parent, guardian, client, and service professional can decide how to proceed.

Yes or agreement

No or discomfort

Stop

Break

18. PARENT OR GUARDIAN PARTICIPATION

During the service, would you prefer to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Remain beside the client | ☐ Remain within sight |
| ☐ Sit nearby | ☐ Allow the professional to build independence with the client |
| ☐ Follow the professional's recommendation | ☐ Other |

Is there anything you would like the barber or hairstylist to say or do before beginning?

19. SAFETY INFORMATION

Are there physical, behavioral, mobility, or communication considerations that may affect the safe completion of the service?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If yes, please explain only what the barber or hairstylist needs to know to provide the service safely:

If the client becomes significantly distressed, what is the preferred response?

20. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW

If there is only one thing you want the barber or hairstylist to understand about your client before beginning the service, what is it?

21. A SUCCESSFUL APPOINTMENT

What would make today's appointment successful for your client?

22. BARBER OR HAIRSTYLIST PRE SERVICE REVIEW

To be completed by the service professional before beginning.

I have reviewed and understand the following:

- ☐ Client's sensory information
- ☐ Client's preferred communication method
- ☐ Known sensory triggers
- ☐ Client's preferred break or stop signal
- ☐ Tools that may require additional preparation
- ☐ Guardian's preferred role during the service
- ☐ Comfort and safety take priority over completing the haircut

Barber or Hairstylist Name

Date

Typed Signature / Initials

PARENT OR GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I understand that this information is being provided to help the barber or hairstylist create an appropriate and supportive haircare experience. I understand that sensory responses can change and that completion of a specific haircut or service cannot always be guaranteed.

I understand that I should inform the service professional of any changes or additional information that could affect the client's comfort or safety.

Parent or Guardian Name

Date

Typed Signature / Initials

OUR SENSORY INCLUSIVE SERVICE COMMITMENT

We do not measure success only by whether the haircut gets finished.

Success may mean entering the barbershop.

Success may mean meeting the barber or hairstylist.

Success may mean sitting in the chair.

Success may mean wearing the cape for two minutes.

Success may mean hearing the clippers without fear.

Success may mean completing part of the haircut today and returning another day.

And sometimes, success means completing the entire service.

Our goal is to build trust before technique, communication before expectation, and comfort before completion. Every client deserves the opportunity to experience personal grooming with dignity, patience, respect, and understanding.