

CONSENT for MINORS, COUPLES AND FAMILIES

WORKING WITH MINORS

- A minor is a person who has not yet reached 18 years of age (age of majority);
- I will only consult the parents or legal guardians of the child (“guardian” in the followings);
- If the adult who requests therapy for a child is not the parent then please provide me with legal documentation of lawful custody of the child at our first meeting;
- The child is my Client and not the consenting adult;
- Children have their rights for confidentiality before the guardians. I will share information with the guardian only about the child’s safety; otherwise I will share information at my discretion and only after the child has agreed and/or signed an Authorization to Exchange Confidential Information;
- The younger the child, the more likely that I will work with the guardians since they create the atmosphere which the child breaths. The older the child, the more I will consider his or her needs for privacy when consulting with the guardian;
- Children resident of California may legally consent to their mental health treatment in outpatient setting if they are at least 12 years old and mature enough to understand the concept of psychotherapy. In such case, I will honor the child’s right for confidentiality and will discuss his/her situation only with the person(s) for whom the child has provided written consent, regardless of guardianship status (excluding emergency situations);
- Legally emancipated children, with proof of such status, may also legally consent to their mental health treatment.

SPECIAL CONFIDENTIALITY

Any sexual activity with a child under 14 years of age is considered child abuse and therefore involves my mandatory reporting responsibilities. Sexual activity with a minor selectively falls under this mandatory reporting obligation, depending on the age and maturity levels of those involved.

WORKING WITH COUPLES OR FAMILIES

- When I work with couples or families, “the couple” or “the family” will be my Client (or “treatment unit”);
- I will likely see you only together;
- In case of ongoing family violence family therapy is contraindicated; I will stop family therapy until affected individuals agree on individual therapy;
- When I communicate with the member(s) of the couple or family separately, **I will not keep secrets** on behalf of either party from the other member(s) of the unit unless sharing it would cause harm;
- I will honor discretion when it comes to parents withholding information from children since children are not equipped to handle many adult content;
- If you want to discuss matters that you do not want to share with anyone in your unit then please consult with an individual therapist;
- If I am not free to exercise my clinical judgment regarding my no-secret policy then I may resign;
- If I am required to exchange information with a third party, I will do so only if every member of the unit, or their legal representatives, sign an Authorization to Obtain, Exchange or Release Confidential Information;

- If my records subpoenaed, I will assert the psychotherapist-patient privilege on behalf of every member of my treatment unit.

With my signature here I acknowledge that I understand and agree to the points as they are set forth in this Consent for Minors, Couples, and Family v.03-01-2019. I understand that I can find this, and any other documents used during this therapy, online at majapsychotherapy.com under "Documents".

Print + Signature Date

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If a representative signs this document on behalf of a family member, please indicate the name of the person for whom you are signing and your relationship to that person.