

## Consent Treatment of a Minor

The involvement of children and adolescence in Life Coaching can be highly beneficial to their overall development. Very often, it is best to see them with parents and other family members; sometimes, they are best seen alone. I will assess which might be best for your child and make recommendations to you.

Obviously, the support of all the child's caregivers is essential, as well as their understanding of the basic procedures involved in coaching children.

The general goal of involving children in Coaching is to foster their development at all levels. At times, it may seem that a specific behavior is needed, such as to get the child to obey or reveal certain information. Although those objectives may be part of overall development, they may not be the next goals for coaching.

Because my role is that of the child's helper, I will not become involved in legal disputes or other official proceedings unless compelled to do so by a court of law. Matters involving custody and mediation are best handled by another professional who is specially trained in those areas rather than by the child's therapist.

The issue of confidentiality is critical in treating children. When children are seen with adults, what is discussed is known to those present and should be kept confidential except by mutual agreement. Children seen in individual sessions (except under certain conditions – see below) are not legally entitled to confidentiality (also called privilege); their parents have this right. However, unless children feel they have some privacy and their privacy is generally being respected, at the same time that parents have access to critical information.

This agreement must have the understanding and approval of the parents or other responsible adults and of the child in Coaching.

This agreement regarding treatment of minors has provisions for interesting individual details, which can be supplied by both the child and the adults involved. However, it is first important to point out the expectations to this general agreement.

The following circumstances override the general policy that children are entitled to privacy while parents or guardians have a legal right to information.

- Confidentiality and privilege are limited in cases involving child abuse, neglect, molestation, or danger to self or others. In these cases, I'm obligated to make an official report to the appropriate agency and will attempt to involve parent as much as possible.
- Minors may independently enter into Coaching and claim the privilege of confidentiality in cases involving abuse or severe neglect, molestation, pregnancy, or communicable diseases, and when they are on active military duty, married or officially emancipated. They may seek therapy independently for substance abuse, danger to self or others, or a mental disorder, but parents must be involved unless doing so would harm the child. (These circumstances may vary from state to state, and the specific laws of each state must be followed.)
- Any evaluation, treatment, or reports ordered by, or done for submission to a third party such as a court or a school is not entirely confidential and will be shared with that agency with your specific written permission. Please also note that I do not have control over information once it is released to a third party.

Now that various aspects surrounding confidentiality have been stated, as a parent or legal of \_\_\_\_\_, I give my consent to participate in Coaching.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_