

Centerstone Notice of Privacy Practices

In general, information and records received in the course of treatment are kept confidential and will only be used within Centerstone. You may request to have your treatment information released to or from a third party. At the time of your request you must sign an *Authorization to Disclose Protected Health Information* form that permits us to provide or receive the requested information. There are times when we must release your information without a specific release.

By Oregon State law confidentiality does not apply under the following conditions:

- If a person is a danger to him/herself or others.
- If the provider considers the client to be an immediate danger to his or her own physical safety or the safety of others, the provider may need to notify others to reduce the potential for danger.
- If a person is facing an emergency medical situation.
- In a case of an extreme medical emergency (e.g. having a heart attack or seizure during a session), the provider will call an ambulance and other necessary healthcare providers.
- In cases where there is suspected abuse of a minor, an elder, someone with a developmental disability, or a person receiving mental health services, the provider is legally required to report this abuse to appropriate authorities. This includes victims of domestic violence and children who have witnessed domestic violence. Instances of animal abuse may also be reported.
- If the court orders it.
- Sometimes a court of law will legally require (subpoena) documents relating to counseling or provider testimony regarding subjects talked about during counseling.
- As part of your coordinated healthcare.
- In order to provide people with the best care, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations allow physical and mental health treatment providers to share information about clients to coordinate treatment. However, some providers will still ask for you to sign a Release of Information form before disclosing information except in cases of emergency.
- If your insurance company requests it
- If a person uses insurance to pay for counseling, that person will sign a form allowing the provider to disclose information to the insurance company for billing purposes. Typically this information is limited to diagnoses and session dates. However, in some cases, this may also involve general information about treatment goals, etc.
- In other circumstances, you will be asked to give written permission for your provider to share any confidential information with a third party. For the instances explained above, no permission is needed.

If the limits of confidentiality are of concern to you, ask your provider for more information about when he/she must share your personal information with a third party.

Revised 12/2/2016