



ZenBees Psychiatry and Wellness Services, LLC.

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Notification of Duty to Warn Policy

Duty to Warn

Confidentiality is a cornerstone of mental health treatment and is protected by the law. Aside from emergency situations, information can only be released about your care with your written permission. If insurance reimbursement is pursued, insurance companies often require information about diagnosis, treatment, and other important information as a condition of your insurance coverage. Several exceptions to confidentiality exist that requires disclosure by law:

- 1) danger to self- if there is an imminent threat to harm yourself, we are required to seek hospitalization for the client, or to contact a family members or others who can help to provide protection
- 2) danger to others- if there is an imminent threat of serious harm to others, we are required to take protective actions, which may include notifying the potential victim, notifying the police, or seeking appropriate hospitalization
- 3) grave disability or impairment – if due to mental illness, you are unable to meet your basic needs, such as clothing, food/water, and shelter, we may have to disclose information to access services to provide for your basic needs
- 4) suspicion of child, elder or dependent abuse- if there is an indication of abuse to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person, even if it is about a party other than yourself, we must file a report with the appropriate state agency, like Adult or Child Protective Services
- 5) certain judicial proceedings- if you are involved in judicial proceedings, you have the right to prevent us from providing any information about your treatment. However, in some circumstances in which your emotional condition is an important element, a judge may require testimony through a court order. Although these situations can be rare, we will make every effort to discuss the proceeding accordingly. We also reserve the right to consult with other professionals when appropriate. In these circumstances, your identity will not be revealed, and only important information will be discussed. Please note that such consultants are also legally bound to keep this information confidential.

As such, the duty to warn arises when a patient has communicated an explicit threat of imminent serious physical harm or death to a clearly identified or identifiable victim or victims, and the

patient has the apparent intent and ability to carry out such a threat. As mental health practitioners, it is our obligation to warn any identifiable victim.

Notification of Mandatory Reporting Policy

As healthcare providers, any suspicion of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect will be reported to Adult or Child Protective Services.