

Centerstone of Illinois Parent/Guardian Information

Substance Abuse Services for Children/Adolescents

- In Illinois, a minor 12 years of age or older has the right to apply for and obtain alcohol and drug abuse treatment.
- Therefore, written consent for disclosure of information regarding their treatment must be given by the minor. If the parents are involved in the minor's treatment, parental signatures are *preferred*, but NOT required.
- The treatment provider is not allowed to communicate information to the minor's parents or guardian without the client's written permission to do so.

Mental Health Services for Children/Adolescents

Who has access to the record of a child/adolescent and can give consent to release the information to a third party:

- The parent or guardian of a recipient who is UNDER 12 years of age. *Please remember that this means EITHER parent, even if the parents are divorced and the non-custodial parent is making the request. The only exception to this would be in cases where a court has terminated parental rights.*
- If the client is between 12 and 18, then the adolescent has access to their record and must sign the consent for release of information to a third party.
- The parent or guardian of a recipient who is at least 12, but under 18 IF the recipient is informed and does not object (signs a consent) or if the therapist does not find that there are compelling reasons for denying access. (If the therapist or child denies access to the records, the parent or guardian may file a court action to seek access.)
- An attorney or guardian ad item who represents a minor 12 or older in any judicial or administrative proceeding, with a court order.
- If the client is a DCFS ward, then DCFS must sign the consent to release information.

****** A minor, 12 years or older, may request and receive counseling or psychotherapy services **without** the consent of parents or guardians. The minor's parents or guardians shall not be informed of such counseling or psychotherapy unless the provider believes such disclosure is necessary; the minor must also be informed of this disclosure. Without the consent of the parents or guardians, however, the provider is *limited to not more than eight counseling/psychotherapy sessions, each session not lasting more than 90 minutes*, for minors over 12 or under 17 years of age. The parents or guardians are not liable for payment of any sessions provided to the minor without their consent. (405 IL CS 5/3-501)

For more information or to make a request for services for a child or adolescent contact:

Centerstone, 902 W. Main St., West Frankfort, Il. 62896

Phone: 618-937-6483 Fax: 618-937-1440 Web: www.centerstone.org