



Counseling Services

Subject: Consent for Treatment of Minors

Policy Number: CM007

Page: 1 of 2

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PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for acquiring consent for treatment of minors.

POLICY

Counselors who provide services to students or clients who are under the age of sixteen (16) will obtain informed consent from a legal guardian (in accordance with South Carolina state laws S.C. Code Ann. § 63-5-340 and § 63-5-350).

Scholars Academy students and USC Upstate students who are ages 14 and 15 years of age require a signed, notarized consent from a legal guardian.

Students ages 16 and 17 years of age do not require a signed consent, but the clinician will engage in a conversation with the student regarding limits of confidentiality since parents could potentially have access to records for a minor in the event of a health or safety crisis.

PROCEDURE

1. When services are provided to a minor aged 14 or 15, the counselor will obtain a notarized consent from a legal guardian (see Consent for Treatment of Minor form).
2. In the event of a crisis for a minor aged 14 or 15, the counselor will obtain and document verbal consent. Written consent from the guardian must be obtained prior to the scheduling of the next/follow-up appointment.
3. It is strongly recommended and encouraged that the Clinician seeks parental/guardian involvement and consent. The guardian will be informed of the risks and benefits of therapy.

4. The counselor will attempt to clarify at the outset, the relationship he/she will have with each person. This clarification includes the role of the Clinician and the possible use of the services provided.
5. If a parent of a 16 or 17 year old is requesting a record when no imminent crisis is present, the student must sign an *Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information* form in order for the record to be release to their parent/guardian/Personal Representative.
6. Regarding psychiatry referrals, Clinicians will actively seek guardian consent in order to identify any current medications, past family history, and inform guardian regarding possible prescription of medication and use of insurance to fill medication (or cash cost). All medical and counseling records will be obtained prior to scheduling a minor with our psychiatric medication providers.