

**INFORMED CONSENT FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:
YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18 YEARS AND OLDER**

At the age of 18, in the State of Georgia, a person is considered an adult for purposes of entering into some agreements and contracts. Age 18 is also the age at which Georgia law allows voting in elections. Confidentiality as a privilege belongs to the client. I am aware that in some cases, a child at this age may still be financially dependent, living at home, and his or her parents may be providing health insurance and payment for professional services such as therapy. THEREFORE, I MUST HAVE THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE CLIENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH PARENTS REGARDING ISSUES RELATED TO THE CLIENT'S TREATMENT.

It is my philosophy to facilitate communication between young adults and their families, and I will attempt to bring parents' concerns into the therapy. When I deem it clinically important, periodic family meetings will be requested.

If a young adult client is engaged in risk-taking or potentially dangerous behavior, I operate under the same principles that apply to adult clients, working toward the therapeutic remediation of the behavior in question. The dangerousness of the behavior is a point of clinical judgment, and, in circumstances in which a young adult refuses to cooperate with treatment recommendations to correct his or her behavior, it may be necessary to breach confidentiality for his or her protection and in rare circumstances terminate treatment.

Information received from parents via phone calls, voice mail, and/or any written communication will not generally be kept secret, because to keep such information secret would impede the therapeutic process and relationship.

I understand the above information and have discussed any questions related to the above information to my satisfaction.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Young Adult Signature

Date

Witness

Date

*Adapted by permission from M. Anderson. (2005). *Informed Consent for Special Circumstances*. Form distributed at a meeting of the Ethics Committee, Georgia Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.