

LEARNING PREP SCHOOL

CONSENT TO RECEIVE COUNSELING SERVICES

I _____ am in agreement that the Counseling Staff of Learning Prep School provide counseling services for my/child _____.

I have read and understand the attached "Conditions and Limits of Confidentiality" statement, and also agree to provide releases of information permitting the Counseling Staff of Learning Prep School to obtain records and relevant information from past or present providers of psychological and/or psychiatric services for my child.

I also understand that the Counseling Staff of Learning Prep School will provide counseling services related to my child's academic adjustment and behavior during school hours. If any psychiatric emergency should arise outside the school hours for which my child needs counseling, I understand that I am to contact the nearest hospital emergency room and/or a mental health clinician of my choice or one recommended by the insurance company. I understand that the Counseling Staff of Learning Prep School does not provide counseling services outside school hours, and does not provide counseling for problems which are not directly related to my child's academic adjustment and behavior at Learning Prep School. I further understand that if the Counseling Staff of Learning Prep School determine that my child is in need of counseling services beyond the scope of academic adjustment and school behavior, they will advise me of the need for outside counseling and assist me in the identification of an appropriate referral for the recommended services:

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

Date

(Signature of student if 18 years old or older)

Date

(Witness)

Date

LEARNING PREP SCHOOL

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

For counseling to be useful, it is important for students to feel "safe" about discussing personal information with their counselor. A counselor is ethically and legally bound to maintain the confidentiality of all communications between the counselor and the student, unless the student or her/his parents or guardians grant permission in writing to share this information with a person or agency outside of Learning Prep School.

There are important exceptions to confidentiality which you should be aware of. In some of the following instances, the counselor is obligated by law and/or circumstances to share some information with the appropriate parties:

1. **TO PROVIDE SAFETY:** If in the counselor's judgment a student presents a clear and present danger to herself/himself, the counselor is obligated to act so as to ensure the safety of the client; and if the student has communicated an actual threat of physical violence or the counselor believes there is a clear and present danger against an identifiable victim or victims, the counselor has the duty to warn or take reasonable actions to provide protection from violence to others.

2. **ABUSE:** If a counselor is given information which leads the counselor to believe that a student under 18 years of age, an elderly person or a handicapped person is suffering serious physical abuse or neglect, the counselor is required by law to contact the appropriate state agency. If a 51A has been filed regarding a client, the Department of Social Services has the right to obtain information from any counselor who has knowledge relevant to any investigation by that Department.

3. **PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION:** In order to provide adequate and appropriate counseling, counselors often find it important to seek consultation with their professional colleagues at Learning Prep School. In these consultations with Learning Prep School administrative officers and professional staff (i.e., the Director, the Principals of the Elementary/Middle School and the High School, Counseling and Teaching Staff) and the student's Educational Team representatives, all these persons and communications are bound by the same conditions and limits of confidentiality described herein.

4. **PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION IN COURT:** In any legal proceeding, the student and his parents or guardians have the right to refuse having the counselor testify and reveal confidential information to the court. There are certain exceptions where privileged communication does not apply, or a judge may in fact order the counselor to provide information. These exceptions are:

A. Child custody or adoption proceedings where the judge feels the information is important to the welfare of the child.

B. Proceedings where the student has stated that her/his emotional or mental state is an element of her/his claim or defense.

C. A legal proceeding related to psychiatric hospitalization.

D. If the student or her/his parents or guardians brings a malpractice or disciplinary proceeding against the counselor.

E. Court-ordered psychiatric evaluations.

F. Certain cases where the student has died.

5. **MINORS:** Parents and guardians of a student (under 18 years of age or subject to legal guardianship) have the right to receive some general information about how the counseling is proceeding. However, for counseling to be effective, it is often important to respect a student's right for some privacy. Parents and/or guardians may discuss these issues at any time with the counselor.

6. **COUNSELING RECORDS:** Counseling files at Learning Prep School are kept separate from the general academic record.

If you have any questions about the above conditions and limits of confidentiality, we encourage you to bring them up with the counselor in order to resolve any questions or concerns.