

Affiliated Psychological and Medical Consultants, L.L.C.

200 W. Academy Street, NW
Suite A
Gainesville, Georgia 30501-8524
Telephone (770) 535-1284
Fax (770) 536-3888

PATIENT'S RIGHTS:

**CONFIDENTIALITY, PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION,
AND DUTY TO WARN OR PROTECT**

Federal and State of Georgia laws assure that everything a patient tells their mental health professional is to remain confidential and is considered privileged communication. Any information a mental health professional has regarding the patient can only be released with the signed, written consent of the patient (or patient's parent or legal guardian in the case of a child). Thus, confidentiality and privileged communication are your rights, guaranteed under State and Federal laws.

There are, however, two exceptions in which the mental health professional's social responsibility is given precedence over these rights. If a patient intends to harm himself or herself, or another individual, the mental health professional has the responsibility and duty to protect the patient, or warn the person to whom harm is intended. Such action by the mental health professional may require that confidentiality be broken. Of course breaching confidentiality would be the last resort, occurring only after all reasonable efforts to resolve the situation had failed, and would be limited to the necessary information required to ensure safety.

State of Georgia law also requires that mental health professionals report all incidents of any type of suspected child abuse to appropriate agencies.

- () David S. Bailey, Ed.D., ABPP, FA ClinP () Stephen P. Farr, Ph.D., BCIA-EEG
() Janice R. Hughes, Ph.D. () Caleb Loring, Psy.D.
() Patricia McCoy, Ph.D.

I have read the above and understand my rights and the mental health professional's social responsibility.

Signed _____

Date _____