

Consent to Counsel A Minor

When meeting with adolescents/children, we have the important task of protecting the adolescent’s/child's right to privacy while at the same time respecting the parent's or guardian's right to information. Counseling is most effective when a trusting relationship exists between the counselor and the adolescent/child. Privacy is especially important in securing and maintaining that trust. In our practice, we provide individual counseling to adolescents/children and ensure the caregiver/parent is involved in the process through consultation with them. At times, the parent/caregiver may even participate in the sessions if desired. However, to ensure a child’s privacy we will not provide detailed information to the parent/caregiver regarding what the child shared unless the child provides consent, or they have disclosed abuse or intent to harm self or others. Instead, general themes, ideas and recommendations will be provided as well as support and encouragement to the parent/caregiver. If it is necessary to refer your child to another mental health professional with more specialized skills, we will discuss that information with you.

I, , legal Parent or Guardian of the Minor Child,

, give my permission to Sharon Brown, Counselor at A Father’s Heart to meet with the Minor Child for counseling, whether I am present in each session or not. I understand that the Counselor must assert confidential privilege – the right to withhold disclosure of private counseling information about the Minor Child. However, in the interest of developing a trust relationship between the Counselor and the Minor Child, I give the Counselor permission to reveal or withhold information that in the spiritual/profession discernment of the Counselor is necessary to best help and protect the Minor Child and further treatment goals. Also, if applicable, you may be asked to provide a copy of the court order which names you the legal custodian of the above child(ren).

Parent / Guardian Signature Date

Counselor Signature Date