

*Maura Abate, Ph.D.*

Licensed Psychologist + Child Neuropsychologist

Newburyport, Massachusetts



## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

I am dedicated to preserving the confidentiality of my clients and follow the guidelines of the American Psychological Association regarding confidentiality. Information is released to others only with the consent of the client or their legal representative.

Information obtained in the clinical relationships or test data are discussed only for professional purposes and only when data are germane to the purpose of the evaluation. When working with minors or other persons who are unable to give voluntary informed consent, I take special care to protect these persons' best interest. Provisions are made for maintaining confidentiality in the storage of records. While every effort is made to protect the confidentiality of the client, in Massachusetts the law mandates the following exceptions to the general rule of confidentiality:

1. In cases where it is necessary to protect the client or others, I must disclose only the information necessary to protect the client or other person. If the client should make actual threats of physical violence, I may be obligated to warn others of the threat of harm, including the identified victim, the police and /or other law enforcement agencies. In extreme cases, I may be obligated to notify family members to seek a court-ordered hospitalization to prevent the client from harming themselves or others.
2. In cases where it is necessary to protect the rights and safety of children or the mentally or physically disabled, I may be obligated to notify and / or disclose information to state agencies that have responsibility for investigating cases of suspected abuse or neglect or to disclose information in the course of legal proceedings.
3. In legal proceedings, or in child custody adoption cases, including those brought by a state agency, I may be obligated to disclose the contents of conversations or evaluations if a judge waives client-doctor privilege or finds it in the best interest of the child to do so.
4. In cases where the disclosure of diagnosis and / or treatment information is required by an insurance company, a health maintenance organization or similar organization, information is to be used solely for the administering of benefits for the client, is kept confidential by the insurance company, and cannot be re-released without written consent.
5. In cases where the school pays for an evaluation, the school is entitled to a copy of the report generated from the evaluation.

I consider our relationship and communication to be confidential. It is only when there is a risk or greater need to be served under law are exceptions made to the rule of confidentiality. In other cases, I will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of our communications.

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Client's / Guardian's Signature

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Date