

River City Psychiatry Patient Policies

A child under the age of 14 years will not be seen without the most recent custody documents. (Court documents only, DHR safety plans are not adequate to initiate treatment or evaluate a child for treatment.)

If a child/children are the subject of an ongoing custody or visitation dispute or involved with DHR, an initial consultation with all involved parties (parents, DHR worker-if applicable, GAL, CASA advocate, grandparents) is REQUIRED prior to the child/children being seen for an appointment. Please note: an attorney representing a parent is not an involved party in discussion of the child's treatment. **A parent who is compelled to bring his or her legal counsel, or a representative of his or her legal counsel, will be considered as interfering with the child's treatment, and will be excluded from treatment planning.**

I do not conduct evaluations based on attorney recommendation. I do not practice forensic psychiatry. All discussions are for the benefit of the child and his or her treatment.

Confidentiality: The only limit to maintaining confidentiality for a patient (regardless of age) is when the child is an imminent danger to him/herself or others. I encourage parents (and any representative of the parent(s)) to respect the child's expectation of privacy. This privacy also includes the child's medical record.

Cancellation Policies: Patients and/or parents are expected to keep scheduled appointments. If an appointment needs to be cancelled, please leave a message on the office phone 256-301-0011.

Failure to keep a scheduled appointment without leaving a message will result in a charge for the missed appointment time.