



### **Confidentiality Policy**

Psychologists have a duty to keep any information they receive from their clients confidential unless their clients give their authorization for psychologists to share information with a third party (e.g., family physician, psychiatrist). There are however, some circumstances where psychologists may have a legal obligation to disclose information to the relevant parties:

1. If there is reason to believe that a client poses an imminent and serious danger to the self or others.
2. In situations where information regarding the possible past or present abuse or neglect of a child under age 16 is disclosed or if that individual is at risk of being victim of abuse.
3. If, on the basis of information received in the course of practicing their profession, psychologists have reasonable grounds to believe that another regulated health professional (e.g., physician, nurse, massage therapist) has sexually abused a client. While a report would include the name of the professional who may have sexually abused a client, the client can remain anonymous if he or she wishes to do so.
4. If a client's clinical file is subpoenaed by a court of law. Psychologists can request to limit the amount of information to be released, but ultimately the final decision rests with the court.
5. All psychologists can be subject to peer reviews overseen by the College of Psychologists of Ontario. In such situations, an onsite review of a member's practice is conducted by two other members of the College who will access some of the psychologist's client files.
6. When there is reasonable grounds to suspect that a resident living in a nursing home or a long-term care facility has suffered harm or is at risk of harm due to improper or incompetent treatment or care, unlawful conduct, abuse or neglect.

Your therapist will review this information during your first appointment. Feel free to ask questions or ask for clarifications if you have any concerns.