



Co-Parenting Policy

Co-parenting is a reality in our society today. We do not know the circumstances of your parting nor do we need to know, unless it concerns the health or well-being of our patient, your child.

Our office understands that split parents should have equal access to their child's health record, unless a court order specifies differently. Absent an order to the contrary, we will assume each parent shall have equal access to the health records of the minor child.

It is an excellent idea for parents not in a relationship with each other, who are coming to our office for the first time, to have a copy of the court order relating to custody. That way, custody issues will be defined from the start. Parents should also provide our office with current copies of court orders related to custody with every update. Information regarding your child's custody arrangements should be quickly relayed to the provider, so that your child continues to receive uninterrupted, quality care in the best manner possible.

If joint custody is in effect, either parent may consent to medical care and treatment. Although joint custody means that both parents have equal authority to consent, the court may require both parents agree upon certain or all medical decisions made on behalf of the child.

What to expect from our office:

- Our providers will consider your child's health and well-being their main concern.
- Our office will not be a messenger between you and your co-parent.
- Our providers will provide all of the information regarding the risk and benefits and alternate options on any treatment in question to the parent or guardian attending the visit.

What we expect from you:

- Your child's well-being is your primary concern.
- Peaceful, consistent, and purposeful communications regarding our patient.
- The adult who brings the child to the visit is expected to provide information about the visit, diagnosis, and treatments to the other adult involved in the care of the child to best support the health of the child.
- Parents should come to an agreement themselves and not bring the provider into a dispute, if the decision is not life-threatening.
- You will not criticize a co-parent in front of our patient.
- You will keep conversations in our office child-focused.
- If you are the parent taking the child to the doctor, we will consider you the person responsible for paying any applicable co-pays and/or balances and will expect you to pay them in full. We will not bill you for a portion of the out-of-pocket expenses and then bill the co-parent for his/her portion.
- Both co-parents are responsible for keeping all demographic information current (insurance, addresses, phone numbers, etc) for the patient.

Please be aware that failure to adhere to this policy may result in permanent termination from the practice.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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c/o Jacksonville, FL Pediatrics

(08/01/2016)