



## LIMITS ON CONFIDENTIALITY

The law protects the privacy of all communication between a patient and a therapist. In most situations, Home For Balance Psychotherapy Group, LLC can only release information about your treatment to others if you sign a written authorization form that meets certain legal requirements imposed by HIPAA. There are some situations where therapists at Home For Balance Psychotherapy Group, LLC are permitted or required to disclose information without either your consent or authorization. If such a situation arises, your therapist will limit her disclosure to what is necessary. Reasons your therapist may have to release your information without authorization:

1. If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information concerning your diagnosis and treatment, such information is protected by the psychologist-patient privilege law. Your therapist cannot provide any information without your (or your legal representative's) written authorization, or a court order, or if your therapist receives a subpoena of which you have been properly notified and you have failed to inform me that you oppose the subpoena. If you are involved in or contemplating litigation, you should consult with an attorney to determine whether a court would be likely to order me to disclose information.
2. If a government agency is requesting the information for health oversight activities, within its appropriate legal authority, your therapist may be required to provide it for them.
3. If a patient files a complaint or lawsuit against me, your therapist may disclose relevant information regarding that patient in order to defend herself.
4. If a patient files a worker's compensation claim, and your therapist is providing necessary treatment related to that claim, your therapist must, upon appropriate request, submit treatment reports to the appropriate parties, including the patient's employer, the insurance carrier or an authorized qualified rehabilitation provider.
5. Your therapist may disclose the minimum necessary health information to her business associates that perform functions on our behalf or provide us with services if the information is necessary for such functions or services. Our business associates sign agreements to protect the privacy of your information and are not allowed to use or disclose any information other than as specified in our contract.

There are some situations in which your therapist is legally obligated to take actions, which she believes are necessary to attempt to protect others from harm, and she may have to reveal some information about a patient's treatment:

1. If your therapist knows, or have reason to suspect, that a child under 18 has been abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or any other person responsible for the child's welfare, the law requires that she files a report with the Florida Abuse Hotline. Once such a report is filed, your therapist may be required to provide additional information.
2. If your therapist knows or have reasonable cause to suspect, that a vulnerable adult has been abused, neglected, or exploited, the law requires that she files a report with the Florida Abuse Hotline. Once such a report is filed, your therapist may be required to provide additional information.
3. If your therapist believes that there is a clear and immediate probability of physical harm to the patient, to other individuals, or to society, she may be required to disclose information to take protective action, including communicating the information to the potential victim, and/or appropriate family member, and/or the police or to seek hospitalization of the patient.