

Confidentiality

Confidentiality between a doctor and a patient is an extremely important element in the process of healing. It is something I take very seriously. When other people ask for information about you, I will not release it without your approval.

There are certain situations, however, when confidentiality breaks down. These are rare, but you should know about them. They include:

- 1) I am required by state law to report suspected child abuse to the Department of Human Services.
- 2) I am required by state law to warn anyone you intend to harm physically.
- 3) I am required by state law to provide information to appropriate people should you waive the right to confidentiality in the context of a lawsuit or a divorce.
- 4) I am required by federal law to provide information to appropriate people who ask for it should you be charged with a federal crime.
- 5) I make it a policy of breaking confidentiality should I believe that you represent a physical danger to yourself or others and/or that you are so disabled that you are unable to physically maintain or protect yourself.

Otherwise, what we discuss stays between us.

Please feel free to ask me for clarification regarding any of these issues.