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| **Confidentiality** | Talk and Touch Therapy |

As a client in psychotherapy, you have certain rights that are important for you to understand because this is your therapy, whose goal is your well-being.

As part of providing a psychological service to you, your psychologist will need to collect and record personal information that is relevant to your current situation. Collection of personal information is a necessary part of psychological assessment and therapy.

**Purpose of Collecting and Retaining Information**

Information is gathered as part of the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of a client's condition, and is seen only by the psychologist. The information is retained in order to document what happens during sessions, and enables the psychologist to provide a relevant and informed psychological service. All communications between you and your psychologist become part of your clinical records, which are stored in your client file. Client files are held in a secure filing cabinet.

**Confidentiality**

Apart from certain specific exceptions described below, you have the absolute right to confidentiality of your information. You are assured that all personal information gathered by the psychologist during the provision of the psychological service will remain confidential and secure.

However, it is important to know there are exceptions in which all psychologists are mandated (by law) to break confidentiality. This can occur when:

1. The information you have given to your psychologist is subpoenaed (officially requested) by a court of law

2. Failure to disclose the information would place you or another person at serious risk of harm

3. Your prior approval has been obtained to: a) provide a written report to another professional or agency, e.g. a GP or solicitor, b) discuss the material with another person, e.g. a parent or employer

**Exchange of Client Information**

There may be times where, as part of the assessment and therapy process, it may be helpful for your psychologist to liaise with other people or agencies that are relevant to your therapy goals (e.g., your GP, specialist, parent.).

Please note that if you intend to claim rebates from Medicare or another organisation (such as WorkCover) then your psychologist must provide summary reports to external agencies regarding your treatment progress. Under the Medicare scheme these reports will normally be sent to your GP or psychiatrist.