

CONFIDENTIALITY

written by Richard Leslie | November 1, 2021

Confidentiality is the cornerstone of psychotherapy and most patients expect it. Many patients, however, perhaps most, are not aware of the many exceptions to confidentiality (e.g., over 25 under California law). In many states, and in HIPAA regulations (federal), there is no requirement to inform patients of all of the exceptions to confidentiality. Some practitioners routinely tell patients of their child abuse reporting duties or the dangerous patient exception to confidentiality, although in some states, such disclosures may not be required. One exception to confidentiality that should be disclosed is the one that allows practitioners to communicate with other licensed practitioners or health care facilities and to share personally identifiable “medical information” for purposes of diagnosis or treatment of the patient.