

Family Care Clinic Financial Policy for Divorced Parents or Step-Parents

As your child's primary care provider, our goal is to provide the best care possible for your child. However, please be aware that our office is not party to your divorce agreement and we cannot and will not be responsible for administering any of its terms.

We will ask that the parent/step-parent bringing the child into the office pay the co-payment, deposit, and/or outstanding balance at the time of the visit. We will not bill or split bill the other parent at any time. Statements go to one parent, usually the one with primary custody, and they are free to forward copies on to the other parent. If your divorce decree or custody documents state a split on who is responsible for medical expenses, this is an issue to take up with your attorney. We ask that payment be made to us, and you or your attorney can seek reimbursement from the other parent. If an account becomes delinquent and/or goes to collections, the collection agency will pursue both parents.

Before we can allow a step-parent to bring a child in for treatment, we must have on file, in writing, a "consent to treat" from either parent. This indicates whom they authorize to bring the child in for medical treatment. Both parents can submit a listing. If the parents disagree on this issue, this must be addressed with your attorney. We will not override a parent's rights unless court documents are received. Both parents have a right to schedule appointments for their child. We will not call the other parent and inform them of said appointment, nor will we call them to advise them of what happened during said appointment. That communication is left up to the parents.

If, after speaking with the parent/person who brought the child in for a visit, you still have questions regarding your child's care, we ask that you please call and leave a message. Someone will call you back. As your child's healthcare provider, we will not be used as a vehicle of communication between divorced parents, therefore we need you to communicate with each other regarding your child.

Both parents have equal rights to the child's medical information so long as the parental rights have not been severed. If parental rights have been ended, we will require a copy of the court documentation to that affect. Both the custodial and non-custodial parent have a right to medical information on their child. Note: This parental right is restricted to access of the child's medical information and does not include access to the address, telephone number, or any information regarding the other parent.

Per Kansas Minor Consent Law, any child over the age of 16 may consent to treatment without a parent or guardian. In certain circumstances minors younger than 16 may consent to specific treatments without notifying a parent or guardian. Please refer to the Kansas State Minor Consent Law for details.

If you wish a copy of all or part of the child's medical record, a fee of \$18.97 per chart plus a per page copy fee is required before the copies will be made and all requests will go into the queue of all other records requests in the office.

With regards to letters to lawyers: letters testifying to the fitness of the parents involve a fee and are treated like other requests for letters/paperwork – an appointment must be made and the letter will be written during that appointment. In most cases this will not be covered by insurance and payment must be made at the time of service.

The best scenario is for both parents and any step-parent(s) involved to communicate openly with one another and actively participate in the healthcare and treatment of the child. This open communication will benefit all parties.

Please note: Different confidentiality laws exist for mental health care and access may or may not be granted to records for treatment of mental health issues or counseling for clients of Deb Moffitt, LCSW.