

## Downtown Psychology, PC

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Licensed Psychologist

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In agreeing to work with a child of divorced parents, there is often one parent who initiates treatment. As an ethically-minded clinician, it is important to me that the non-present parent is **aware** that their child is being brought to my office, and that they **consent** to the involvement of a psychologist in the child's life. Some divorced parents get along well, and others do not. I am well aware of this and am happy to set up separate intake appointments if this is a more comfortable way for each parent to share information about his or her child with me.

While North Carolina Law (GS 32A-30) only requires the consent of one custodial parent, I personally require consent of **both** parents at the outset of (or before) treatment. I find that this transparency at the beginning prevents all sorts of conflicts later on. It also allows me to gain a more complete picture of a child's functioning, creates better commitment to treatment by both parents, and reduces the likelihood that the child or therapist will be triangulated between the parents. Both parents should always assume that information shared about your child is open and available to his or her other parent.

If you are not the parent who initiated contact with me, and you are reading this and would like to be involved in the services I provide to your child, I recommend that you get involved right away. It is much more difficult for me to communicate about assessment and treatment after the fact. The best way to contact me is via email at [nardo@downtownpsychology.com](mailto:nardo@downtownpsychology.com).

Signing this form acknowledges that you agree to the following statements:

- I am aware that my child is receiving services from Dr. Nardo at Downtown Psychology PC in Raleigh, and I consent to assessment and/or treatment.
- I understand that Dr. Nardo will not testify for either parental party as part of child custody court cases. Her work is focused on the best interest of children and involvement in legal matters runs counter to this focus in many ways.
- I understand that all payments will be made at the time of service. If there is a dispute about who is responsible for payment, that will be decided upon by the child's parents before each appointment.
- I have read this form and verify that I understand Dr. Nardo's policies with regard to providing services to minors of divorced parents.

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Signature

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Date

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Print Name

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Email address

For more information about Psychological Services for Minors of Divorced Children, see <http://ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/TheimannAdvisoryJune09.pdf>