

# Counselling Services Provided to a Minor (Under the Age of 18 Years)

Converge International is committed to delivering high quality services that promote psychological wellbeing in children, youth, and families via our Family Assist program. Family and children's matters often require continuity of professional service, to facilitate building a counselling relationship and provide support over time. Younger children particularly need this to enable change.

Understanding a family's needs right from the beginning ensures our ability to offer the most suitable assistance to families whilst recognising that EAP's short-term intervention model may not always be in the best interests of parents and/or children where longer-term support is required.

## SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS COUNSELLING

- Where counselling services are being requested for children under the age of 12 years, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to attend the initial session **without the child(ren) present** to ensure that future involvement in EAP counselling is appropriate, and in your child's best interests. It is at this session that the goals of counselling will be discussed, as well as discussing how/when the referring parent(s)/guardian(s) would like to receive feedback of the sessions.
- For youth over the age of 12 years the referring parent(s)/guardian(s) will still need to be present, but it is the consultant's discretion as to who will be seen at which stage of the session.

### EAP can assist with:

- ✓ Assessment of the young person's/family's needs
- ✓ Support with transitioning to longer term intervention particularly with children under 12 years
- ✓ Provision of short-term intervention counselling with the young person

- ✓ Provision of family counselling
- ✓ Pertinent intervention with parent(s)/guardian(s)
- ✓ Supporting and coaching parent(s)/guardian(s) in strategies to manage child/adolescent behaviours and concerns

### The limits of EAP:

- x EAP is not intended to be, or to replace, provision of specialist mental healthcare support or formal psychological assessment
- x Consultants cannot assess or diagnose any neurodevelopmental conditions such as ADHD or autism, and are unable to offer psychological comment or provide reports about your child's development or personal wellbeing
- x EAP is orientated to be a short-term solutions-focused therapy, and therefore may not lend itself to certain presentations. This is particularly relevant to younger children who most often require continuity of care over a longer period.

Where Converge International believes that it is not clinically appropriate or in the best interests of a child/young person to be seen under EAP services we will, instead:

- o Discuss this with the presenting parent(s)/guardian(s)
- o Offer support and strategies to parent(s)/guardian(s) in managing presenting concerns
- o Provide onward referral options, if required, allowing children to access appropriate services

## CONTACT OR MORE INFORMATION

1300 687 327 (Aus) | 0508 664 981 (NZ) | +613 8620 5300 (Intl)

convergeinternational.com.au | privacy@convergeintl.com.au

## COUNSELLING SERVICES PROVIDED TO A MINOR (UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS)

### CONSENT TO COUNSEL A MINOR

Prior to seeing your child(ren) you will be asked if there are existing court ordered custodial/ parental agreements in place regarding the need for joint decision making and/or consent from both parents in child-related matters.

Where it has been declared that there are NO court orders in place, this will be recorded in our system and the appointment booking will proceed.

Where it has been declared that there are court orders in place, the presenting parent must sign the below consent form and return it to Converge International before counselling support can be arranged.

### CONFIRMATION OF ADHERENCE TO CHILD RELATED LEGAL ORDERS

In arranging and/or providing consent for my child

first name, last name

date of birth

to attend counselling through Converge International, I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to meet all conditions required of me in relation to current and future court orders sealed by a court of appropriate jurisdiction, pertaining to the child and/or obligations to inform any other parent of the child's attendance.

Signed

Print Name

Date

Please forward the above signed document to [customerservice@convergeintl.com.au](mailto:customerservice@convergeintl.com.au), then proceed to contacting our Customer Service team on **1300 687 327** to book your child's counselling appointment.

### CONTACT OR MORE INFORMATION

**1300 687 327** (Aus) | **0508 664 981** (NZ) | **+613 8620 5300** (Intl)

[convergeinternational.com.au](http://convergeinternational.com.au) | [privacy@convergeintl.com.au](mailto:privacy@convergeintl.com.au)