

BOWDEN & ASSOCIATES
Psychological and Counseling Services LLC

Statement of Policies Concerning Therapy Clients and Possible Litigation

When families have gone through divorce, or custody determinations, stress and coping can be affected. Litigation (involving the courts or legal decisions) can be extremely frustrating for families. Children often have difficulty coping with these situations. During these stressful times therapy can be very helpful.

The therapists at Bowden & Associates are all trained and experienced in helping families cope with the stress of divorce and custody changes. However, these cases often involve attorneys, the Courts and at times Guardian ad litem.

Due to the contentious nature of these cases, we have formulated a policy as to how we view therapy in these situations and what we are able and willing to do to assist you and your family.

We are here to help you and/or your family to cope, not to assist you in your court case. If you choose to have therapy at Bowden & Associates your therapist will formulate a treatment plan that helps you and your family to deal more effectively with change.

It is our belief that in contested divorce/custody cases court testimony by a therapist can be hurtful to the therapeutic relationship. We strongly believe that the information you share in therapy is confidential and not subject to cross examination in court. Thus, we do not provide court testimony or give any recommendations concerning custody or visitation. The Ohio laws that govern psychologists, counselors and social workers prohibit therapists from making any recommendations concerning custody and/or visitation.

If written documentation is needed, we will provide you with a brief summary of the facts that include the dates of participation, diagnosis, brief summary of treatment goals and recommendation as to length of therapy. Phone calls to/from attorneys and Guardian ad litem, and copying of records will be billed to you at the rate stated in our Policy Concerning Fees and in accordance with Ohio law. You are responsible for these fees as they cannot be billed to insurance.

If you are in need of therapy to help you or your family to function better in a difficult time, we are here to help. If, however, you need expert testimony or written reports, we will be glad to refer you to other agencies that may be better able to meet your needs.

Client Name

Client Signature

Date

