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**INFORMED CONSENT FOR (CHECK ONE):**

**SOCIAL WORK**     **MENTAL HEALTH**

**1. Information Sharing**

The Bighorn Primary Care Network records a patient’s health information in a secure medical charting program. This information may include brief notes, session summaries, assessments, and homework assignments. Information in the patient’s medical chart will be kept strictly confidential and will not be revealed to any other person or agency without written consent except in circumstances permitted by legislation which include:

- **Ongoing care and treatment:** Your provider(s) will consult with your care team and provide updates as necessary to your physician.
- **Harm:** There are some situations where health professionals are required to reveal information obtained during sessions to other persons or agencies without patient permission, but, ideally, not without awareness. These situations involve: **Danger to self, danger to others, or child abuse.** The sharing of information in these situations is to ensure that those persons who are in imminent danger are kept safe.
- **Subpoena:** Notes, reports, and other information kept on file can be subpoenaed in a court of law (i.e. the mental health therapist is required to provide the court with these documents).
- **Emergency:** In the event of a medical, psychiatric, or psychological emergency, a health professional can contact a family member, physician, psychiatrist, or EMS.

**2. Identity and Environment**

Misrepresentation of identity when accessing health services is prohibited by law whether service is provided in-person, by telephone or via video appointment. For telephone and video appointments, patients are responsible for ensuring that the physical environment is safe (i.e. you are not driving at the time) and provides sufficient privacy.

**3. Benefits and Risks – COMPLETE ONE OF 3.1 or 3.2**

**3.1. Social Work Assessment and Treatment**

**Benefits:** MRPCN PCN social work services are strictly voluntary. MRPCN social workers strive to assist patients in navigating the complexities of the social systems. For individuals who demonstrate the capacity to engage in services, social workers will actively encourage them to make informed decisions on their own behalf.

**Risks:** The amount of time a patient remains involved with social work services can depend on the complexity of the social concern and the patient’s level of engagement and participation.

Despite best efforts of both the patient and social worker, a favourable result for the patient is not always achieved. Although, frustrations may arise from this process, there is an expectation of respectful dialogue with the social worker during appointments and telephone conversations.

Patients that do not believe a therapeutic rapport is being established with the social worker may request a transfer to another social worker by either discussing this with the social worker or their supervisor.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the statements in sections 1, 2 and 3.1.

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Day    Month    Year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Day    Month    Year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian or Substitute Decision Maker (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian or Substitute Decision Maker Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Day    Month    Year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Health Provider (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provider signature

### 3.2. Mental Health Assessment and Treatment

**Benefits:** An abundance of evidence suggests that psychotherapy provides significant benefits. The therapeutic experience can often be improved when the patient provides feedback to the therapist about the therapy process and the impact it is having on reducing harm and overall discomfort. Therapy is most effective when the patient fully participates and is comfortable with the therapist. Patients that do not connect or feel comfortable with a therapist are encouraged to talk with them about requesting a transfer to another available therapist.

**Risks:** Psychotherapy may lead to uncomfortable thoughts and feelings or recollection of troubling memories. At the end of the initial session, patients often feel sad, irritable, or anxious. It is completely normal to feel this way. Most patients feel better within a couple of therapy sessions.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the statements sections 1, 2 and 3.2.

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Day    Month    Year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Day    Month    Year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian or Substitute Decision Maker (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian or Substitute Decision Maker Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Day    Month    Year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Health Provider (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provider signature