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Trinity Wellness Center Provider Policy: Non-Acceptance of Clients with Open Custody Cases

Rendering Provider: Yvonne MacKillop PA-C; and

Supervising Psychiatrist: Dr. R Thomas Mathew, MD

Purpose:

This policy aims to ensure that all individuals seeking services at Trinity Wellness Center (Office) receive the highest standard of care at all times. To maintain a therapeutic, unbiased, and confidential environment, and to safeguard the integrity and privacy of the treatment process, we have made the decision not to accept new clients involved in custody disputes or subject to a custody agreement except as provided in the "Exceptions" section below.

Policy Overview:

1. **Scope of Policy:**

The Office will not accept any client whose custody case is currently open or unresolved. This includes clients who are involved in legal disputes regarding child custody, guardianship, and/or parental rights.

2. **Reason for Policy:**

- The psychiatric treatment process requires a safe, neutral, unbiased, impartial, and non-adversarial environment. As treating clinicians, we are required to adhere to ethical concerns about potential conflicts of interest, confidentiality, and the need for impartiality to the maximum extent permitted by law.

3. **Exceptions:**

In cases where there is an ongoing custody dispute or a client is subject to a custody agreement, the Office reserves the right to provide treatment if deemed appropriate and to the maximum extent permitted by law. However, clients will be required to disclose any ongoing legal issues related to custody, guardianship and/or parental rights, and the Office may determine whether treatment can proceed to the maximum extent permitted by law.

4. **Referral Process:**

- If a potential client involved in a custody case is referred to our office, we will inform the referring party of this policy to the maximum extent permitted by law.
- Clients involved in a custody case will be provided with appropriate referrals to professionals who specialize in legal or custody-related matters.

- Clients may be referred to other mental health professionals who have experience working with individuals in such custody disputes, if deemed appropriate and to the maximum extent permitted by law.

5. Confidentiality and Documentation:

- In cases where a client discloses involvement in a custody dispute, we will maintain confidentiality as outlined in our practice's confidentiality policies to the maximum extent permitted by law.
- However, if a client's case requires us to provide legal testimony or documentation (such as court reports, evaluations, or written opinions), we reserve the right to refer the client to a specialist or to decline services based on our expertise and the needs of the case and to the maximum extent permitted by law.

6. Review and Enforcement:

- This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains in line with professional, ethical, and legal standards.
- If a client's custody case becomes open after beginning treatment at Trinity Wellness Center, the clinician will discuss the situation with the client. We may recommend a transfer of care if necessary and if authorized and/or permitted by law.

Conclusion:

The Office is committed to providing high-quality, professional psychiatric treatment services to all clients. By maintaining this policy, we aim to focus on the needs of clients while avoiding obstacles that interfere with their therapeutic journey.

For any questions regarding this policy, or if you have concerns about your case, please contact the Office at 910-343-8424.

Yvonne MacKillop PA-C

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'YMP PA-C', written in a cursive style.

Dr. R. Thomas Mathew, MD