



## Let's Talk!

### Clients' Privacy and Consent to Share Substance Use Treatment Information

*Call-out script: For Peer Workers who need to discuss consent to share treatment information as it relates to clients' involvement with Child Protective Services (CPS)*

#### About this resource:

At times, clients may request support with consenting to share substance use treatment information as it relates to meeting the requirements of CPS sanctioned treatment.

This resource is meant to accompany, and build upon, the CoE-PHI's [general script](#) for Peer Support Specialists to assist with having conversations about privacy and consent to share treatment information. It specifically supports conversations about assisting patients with making decisions about sharing information with CPS to meet the requirements of sanctioned treatment.

#### How to use this resource:

Use this resource to support conversations about consenting to share substance use treatment information with clients who are receiving treatment CPS Sanctioned Treatment.

#### Case scenario:

This script models a conversation that takes place within the CoE-PHI's accompanying video (["Let's Talk: For Peer Workers Talking About Child Protective Services"](#)). The video portrays a conversation between Maria, a client at a facility that provides both general medical care and services for people who use substances, and a Peer Support Specialist named Kevin.

The conversation takes place directly before **Maria's** visit with her social worker, **Gordon**. Maria expresses her concerns with Kevin, and they discuss a plan of action that will involve Gordon, and focuses on decision-making around sharing treatment information specifically as it relates to meeting the requirements of Maria's sanctioned treatment.



**The video begins with Kevin speaking with Maria in a private office before her visit with Gordon.**

**MARIA**

Kevin... something I have been really worried about is my open Child Protective Services case. I was mandated to substance use treatment by CPS and I would like for my CPS case worker to be able to know that I've been receiving my required treatment. I have a daughter and she's the reason why I am in recovery today.

**KEVIN**

Maria, thank you for sharing that. A lot of my clients are parents who share similar concerns. What specific questions do you have about sharing your treatment information with CPS?

**MARIA**

Well... I want to make sure they know I am in substance use treatment, and attending all of my appointments, but I share very personal things in my sessions, and I want to make sure that information remains private.

**KEVIN**

I totally understand that concern. Here are a few things I want to make sure you're aware of. When it comes to the specific details of your visits, that information is documented within substance use counseling notes, which here at Greenhill Treatment Center are kept separate from all of your other records. Federal regulations provide a greater level of protection for those counseling notes, and they wouldn't be shared unless you specifically consented to share that information through a separate signed consent form.

**MARIA**

Hmm, okay. I would only like to share the fact that I am in substance use treatment, the dates of my services, and my toxicology results. Is that allowed?

**KEVIN**

Absolutely. The consent forms for sharing treatment information will allow you to specify exactly what information you would like to share, with whom, and for how long. It would be important for us to check in with your CPS case worker about what information is required for them to know, and for how long. Commonly, case workers request to see the dates of your visits, and your urine sample results, for the length of your CPS case.

Let's make sure we talk to Gordon about this today, before we call your case worker. Does that sound okay with you?

**MARIA**

That sounds great. I'm looking forward to talking about this with Gordon.

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**More information:**

For more resources related to having effective, client-centered conversations about concepts of privacy and navigating decisions about consenting to share treatment information, visit our suite of resources on this topic.

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