

**Sara Sladoje, MS, CCLS**  
**Certified Child Life Specialist**  
1300 W Belmont Ave Ste 407A  
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### **Client Agreement**

Thank you for choosing me as your child life specialist. Please read the following information. It is designed to orient you to my policies. I hope that the information will answer any questions you may have. If you have any additional questions, I will be happy to discuss them with you.

- 1. Confidentiality:** Information about your status as a client and sessions will not be given to anyone without your written approval. The records of a child under 18 require written consent of the parent or legal guardian. There are, however, some specific circumstances that create legal exceptions.

\*If you are a danger to yourself or someone else, information must be provided to the appropriate authorities

\*If there is good reason to believe that you are abusing or neglecting a child or vulnerable adult, or if you give me information about someone else who is doing this, child/adult protective services and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency must be notified.

\*If records are ordered by the court, they must be released

\*I will retain confidentiality with children under the age of 18 as a way to convey trust and show them respect. I will discuss general progress and themes regarding intervention with parent or legal guardian. I will always inform a child before disclosing any information with you or the appropriate officials.

There are several other matters concerning confidentiality:

1. I may occasionally find it helpful or necessary to consult with another professional about a case. In these consultations I make every effort to avoid revealing the identity of the client. The consultant is, also legally bound to maintain confidentiality. If I feel that it would be helpful to refer a family to another professional for consultation, then with client authorization, I will discuss the case with her or him.

2. I am required to maintain complete treatment records. Clients are entitled to receive a copy of these records. Clients will be charged an appropriate fee for preparation.

3. Under current **Illinois** law, in group, family, and marital therapy all participants are required to consent to the release of information. One marital partner may not waive privilege for another.

- 2. Fees:** I charge on a per session basis, with each session lasting appx. 50 minutes in duration. Payment shall be made at the time of service at the per session rate of \$100. An initial phone session, to obtain background information and assessment for appropriateness of services offered will last 15 minutes and is free.

Telephone consultation may be necessary at times. You will not be charged for the first 10 minutes, but will be charged a prorated fee based on the established rate of \$100. This fee is due at the next in-office session.

Charges for other services such as hospital visits, consultations with health care professionals, consultation with schools, or other services will be based on the time involved in providing my service at the regular fee schedule. These charges will be discussed with you in advance.

Financial responsibility for services rest with the client, regardless of insurance coverage. I do not accept insurance coverage for my services. Payments may be made directly to Sara Sladoje via check on date of service.

- 2. Services :** The service to be provided are Child Life services which provide child development information, education and psycho/social support for a child and family experiencing changes in behavior, challenges to the family system or coping with loss due to trauma, illness or stress. Services are also utilized by families to learn ways to best support everyday challenging behaviors and gain understanding as to their developmental meaning and specific, practical ways for child and parent to navigate the behavior successfully. Services rendered are therapeutic in nature but are not therapy services.

***What is a Child Life Specialist?***

*Child life specialists are trained professionals with expertise in helping children and their families overcome life's most challenging events.*

*Armed with a strong background in child development and family systems, child life specialists promote effective coping through play, preparation, education, and self-expression activities. They provide emotional support for families, and encourage optimum development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences, particularly those related to healthcare and hospitalization. Because they understand that a child's wellbeing depends on the support of the family, child life specialists provide information, support and guidance to parents, siblings, and other family members. They also play a vital role in educating caregivers, administrators, and the general public about the needs of children under stress.*

*- Child Life Council [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org)*

- 4. Appointments:** Appointments must be scheduled in advance. Please notify me by calling my phone and leaving a message at least 24 hours in advance should you not be able to make your scheduled appointment. You will be charged for a full session if you fail to keep a scheduled appointment or do not give 24 hours' notice of cancellation. Emergency situations and sudden illness or hospitalization will be considered on an individual basis.

- 5. Emergencies:** You can call my cell phone at 773-587-0916 and leave a message, and I will return your call as soon as possible. If there is a medical emergency, please call 911 or go directly to the closest emergency room for assistance.

- 6. Planned Absences:** I will inform you of planned vacations ahead of time as well as scheduled personal or work related events such as conferences, trainings, or family or medical leave.

It is important for you to understand the business aspects of your consultation as well as the social/emotional aspects of our work. I do hope this form clarifies the business aspects so that I can move forward and assist you and your family in coping with the issues you are confronting.

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While this summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, you should be aware that the laws governing these issues are often complex. I encourage our active discussion of these issues. However, if you need more specific advice, formal legal consultation may be desirable.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_, have fully discussed with **Sara Sladoje** the various aspects of the Child Life services contract. This has included a discussion of **Sara Sladoje's** assessment and method of family strategy for coping. The nature of services has been described, including the possibility that if specialization beyond these services is necessary or an alternative recommended, a referral will be provided. I understand I may withdraw from our recommended number of sessions at any time but if I decide to do this I will discuss my plan with **Sara Sladoje** before acting on it.

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**Sara Sladoje** has further discussed with me scheduling policies, fees to be charged, and policies regarding payment, missed appointments and that no insurance is accepted.

I have read the above; fully understand the nature of services, the limits of confidentiality in this relationship, and the circumstances in which confidential communications may need to be breached.

**I have read and understand the above information and agree to the stated terms.**

Client or Legal Guardian printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Client or Legal Guardian printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Client or Legal Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Client or Legal Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sara Sladoje MS, CCLS \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_