Informed Consent and Assent Checklist

This document is intended to be of assistance to registrants with respect to obtaining appropriate informed consent and informed assent. Relevant Code standards are indicated in brackets following the checklist items.

☐ I have identified all relevant parties from whom I must seek consent and/or assent, including determining any issues of parental status and rights in any case involving children. (1.1, 1.2, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.24, 4.25)

☐ I have determined which of my potential clients have both the legal and cognitive capacity to consent, and have also considered whether they are free of undue influence. I will seek to obtain informed consent from those who are free of undue influence, and informed assent from those who are not. (1.1, 4.1, 4.3, 4.24, 4.25)

☐ I have determined all exceptions to the right of confidentiality in the particular circumstance. (1.2, 1.6, 3.8, 4.24, 4.25, 5.9, 5.13, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.11, 7.17, 18.1)

☐ My informed consent process includes the following elements:
  - a review of the proposed service, including any supervised elements and my responsibility for those elements, innovative elements of the service, anticipated risks and benefits, alternative services, and any other elements of the service that could influence a person’s decision to provide consent (4.2, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.24, 4.25, 8.7)
  - the limits of confidentiality, including any expected or intended uses of information obtained, how I will handle confidentiality issues involving multiple clients and/or third parties, and any exceptions to confidentiality (1.6, 3.8, 4.24, 4.25, 5.9, 5.13, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.11, 7.17, 18.1)
  - any confidentiality issues related to common filing systems (6.1, 6.5, 6.14, 14.8)
  - the client’s right to ask any questions about the service or my training and experience (4.2, 4.9)
  - the client’s right to end service at any time and to request referral elsewhere (5.8, 5.20)
  - my fees and any other charges, including interest charges on overdue accounts and my policy on responding to overdue accounts (12.1, 12.2)
  - my policy regarding missed and late-cancelled sessions (12.2)
  - a statement that as part of routine practice I may occasionally consult with colleagues regarding my practices, and that if I do it will be for the purpose of benefiting the client and client confidentiality will be preserved (3.2, 4.2)
  - my status as a registrant of the College, the College’s role in regulating the profession, and how to contact the College in the event of any concerns (7.10)
  - a statement confirming the client has reviewed and understood the information about the service and has had an opportunity to ask any questions (4.9)
  - documentation in my practice record of the informed consent, including where possible the signed consent of the client(s) (4.2, 13.6)
  - the date on which the informed consent was obtained (13.6)
In those cases in which a client lacks the legal capacity to accept or reject the service, is compelled or unduly influenced to accept the service, or lacks the capacity to understand all relevant significant information that might influence his or her decision to accept the service, I will seek his or her informed assent to proceed. My informed assent process includes the following:

- informing the client to the fullest extent possible regarding relevant significant information that might influence his or her decision to accept the service. “Fullest extent possible” means that my informed assent process will be the same as my informed consent process in those cases in which the client has the capacity to understand the information and there are no other impediments to my reviewing this information with him or her (1.1, 1.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.24, 4.25)
- a clear description of what information will and will not be shared with specified others (1.2, 1.6, 3.8, 4.24, 4.25, 5.9, 5.13, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.9, 6.11, 7.17, 18.1)
- any exceptions to expectations of confidentiality (1.2, 1.6, 3.8, 4.24, 4.25, 5.9, 5.13, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.9, 6.11, 7.17, 18.1)
- any other elements of informed consent deemed appropriate to review with the client in the circumstance and consistent with the cognitive capacity of the client. (4.2, 4.3, 4.24, 4.25)