**Limits of Confidentiality**

Comprehensive Autism Related Education (CARE), Inc. takes your privacy very seriously. The contents of all therapy sessions are considered to be confidential. Both verbal information and written records about a client cannot be shared with another party without the written consent of the client or the client’s legal guardian.

**However, there are some key exceptions with regard to confidentiality**. All healthcare professionals, including all CARE clinicians, are required by law to release information to the appropriate authorities, including the Department of Children & Family Services, law enforcement, and/or mental-health evaluators, under one or more of the following circumstances:

**Duty to Warn and Protect**

When a client discloses intentions or a plan to harm another person, the healthcare professional is required by law to warn the intended victim and report this information to legal authorities.

When a client discloses or implies a plan to seriously harm or kill him/herself, the healthcare professional is required to take reasonable steps to prevent such an event from occurring. Steps may include, but are not limited to, notifying the client’s family members and/or contacting emergency psychiatric services.

**Abuse of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

If a healthcare professional suspects any past or present abuse of a child, elderly individual, or dependent adult, he or she is required by law to report the suspected abuse to the appropriate protective-services agency. Suspicion of child abuse can occur through direct observation or through verbal or written information provided by the client, the client’s family members, or others.

**Court-Subpoenaed Records**

If you are involved in legal proceedings, your healthcare records may be subpoenaed by the court. In such a case, we would work with you and with the court to try to limit the release of information to only that which was absolutely necessary.

Client Name (First & last) Signature Date

\*Name of Responsible Adult (First & Last) Signature Date

Interpreter (if applicable) (First & Last) Date

\* Responsible Adult = Legal Guardian, Conservator, or Parent of Minor (> 18).