



## **Working with Minors, Parents & Custody Policy**

***Last updated: 07/08/2025***

At Time & Space Psychology, we are committed to creating a safe, affirming, and legally compliant environment when supporting children, adolescents, and their families. This policy outlines how we manage **consent, confidentiality, parent involvement, and legal responsibilities** — including custody and parenting arrangements — when working with minors.

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### **1. Scope of This Policy**

This policy applies to all services we provide to children and adolescents, including:

- Therapy
  - Assessments
  - Parent/carer support
  - School collaboration
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### **2. Consent for Services**

To begin or continue services for a minor, we require **informed consent from all individuals who hold legal decision-making authority**.

- In shared custody situations, we typically request consent from **both parents**, unless a valid court order states otherwise.
  - If custody or parental responsibility is unclear or disputed, we may **pause services** until documentation is provided and consent is confirmed.
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### 3. Parenting Orders and Legal Documentation

To ensure we act in line with current legal requirements, families may be asked to provide:

- **Parenting orders** or other court documentation outlining custody or parental responsibility;
- Updates if orders **change** during the course of therapy or assessment.

We rely on these documents to determine **who can consent** to services and **who is legally entitled** to access information.

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### 4. Parent and Carer Involvement

We value collaborative care and recognise that **supporting the broader family system** can make a real difference.

- Where appropriate, we may offer **check-ins, goal-setting conversations, or parent support sessions**.
  - For adolescents, involvement of caregivers is handled **sensitively and collaboratively**, with the young person's comfort and autonomy at the centre.
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### 5. Confidentiality & Information Sharing

We respect the privacy of all young people and uphold strict confidentiality practices.

- Information is only shared with **parents or caregivers who have legal authority**, and whenever possible, we seek the **young person's consent**.
  - Reports or session content will **not** be shared with individuals who **do not** hold legal access rights.
  - Our practices follow the principles in our [Privacy & Confidentiality Policy](#).
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### 6. Disputed or High-Conflict Situations

We do **not** provide court-related services or participate in family law disputes.

- If legal conflict arises during a period of care, we may **limit or pause services** until the issue is resolved.

- Any legal requests (such as subpoenas or court correspondence) will be managed in consultation with our **legal advisors and professional indemnity insurer**.
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## 7. Why This Matters

These steps are in place to:

- Protect the **safety and privacy** of the child or adolescent;
- Honour the **rights and responsibilities** of families;
- Ensure we meet our **ethical, professional, and legal obligations** as registered psychologists.

This policy should be read alongside the following:

- [Privacy & Confidentiality Policy](#)
- [Third Party Requests Policy](#)
- [Record-Keeping Policy](#)
- [Scope of Services Statement](#)
- [Telehealth Policy](#)