

### Office policy regarding divorced parents or step-parents:

As your child's pediatrician, our goal is to provide the best pediatric care for your child. However, please be aware that our office is not party to your divorce agreement and we cannot and will not be responsible for administering any of its terms.

We will require that the parent/step-parent bringing the child into the office pay the co-payment, deposit, and/or outstanding balance at the time of the visit. We will not bill or split bill the other parent at any time. Statements go to one parent, usually the one with primary custody, and they are free to forward copies on to the other parent.

If there is NOT a court order on file with our office, either parent or legal guardian can sign a "Consent to Treat" form that authorizes any named individuals (like grandparents, nannies etc.) to bring your child to our practice, be present during the visit and consent to any treatment during that visit. We will not be involved in any disputes regarding named individuals on the consent forms unless instructed by the court. Either parent or legal guardian can schedule an appointment for their child, be present for the visit and/or obtain a copy of the visit summary

Both parents have a right to schedule appointments for their child. We will not call the other parent and inform them of said appointment, nor will we call them to advise them of what happened during said appointment. That communication is left up to the parents. As your child's healthcare provider, we will not be used as a vehicle of communication between divorced parents, therefore we need you to communicate regarding your child.

Both parents have equal rights to the child's medical information so long as the parental rights have not been severed. Please make decisions regarding appointments, vaccinating and/or any office procedures **PRIOR** to visiting our practice. If parental rights have been ended, we will require a copy of the court documentation to that affect. Both the custodial and non-custodial parent have a right to medical information on their child.

The best scenario is for both parents and any step-parent involved to communicate openly with one another and actively participate in the healthcare and treatment of the child. This open communication will benefit all parties. Should the issues that come between parents become disruptive or there is non-compliance with this policy, we reserve the right to discharge the family from the practice.

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