**Carlisle Pediatric Associates**

**804 Belvedere St.**

**Carlisle PA 17013**

**Policy: Policy for Divorced, Separated or Non-Custodial Parents**

The providers and staff of Carlisle Pediatrics are here to take care of children. **Our focus is on the medical, psychological and emotional health of your child(ren) – NOT legal issues involving divorce, separation or custody agreements.** That is why we ask you to read and comply with the following:

1. Please make joint decisions about vaccinating your child(ren), circumcision, reproductive education, and who can schedule visits and who will be responsible for payment BEFORE visiting our practice.
2. Either parent or legal guardian can schedule and appointment for their child, be present for the visit, and/or obtain a copy of the visit summary. Unless there is a court order in the child’s record that restricts a parent’s rights, please do not ask us to limit the other parent’s involvement in your child’s care.

a) Per the legal consultants at the Pennsylvania Medical Society: “As a general rule, biological parents are entitled to have access to medical records and other medical information regarding a minor child, by virtue of their rights as parents and to enable them to make medical decisions for their minor children. If the custodial parent can produce written proof that the current custodial agreement states the non-custodial parent is not to be involved in any way with the child's medical care, you may refuse the request. If there is no such document, both biological parents have a right to the child's medical records, regardless of the custody situation. <https://www.pamedsoc.org/detail/article/FAQ-Non-custodial-Parent?SSO=true>

b) Per our lawyers at Saxton and Stump, if a non-custodial parent requests access to the children’s records, and the custody order does not reflect that that parent’s parental rights have been terminated, even though they may not have decision-making authority (because the other parent has sole legal custody), they may still have rights to their child(ren)’s medical information. They have not lost all rights involving the child(ren) unless specifically noted that their parental rights have been terminated and they have no involvement in any way with the child’s medical care.

1. Payment (co-pays, deductibles, etc.) are due at the time of service regardless of which parent is responsible for medical coverage. We are not a party to your divorce agreement. We will collect payment due from the parent who brings the child to the visit. If the divorce decree requires the other parent to pay all or part of the treatment costs, it is the authorizing parent’s responsibility to collect from the other parent. If you are having trouble with this, please consult your attorney.
2. Both parents/legal guardians can sign a “Consent to Treat” form. This means other persons (like grandparents, nannies, etc.) are authorized to bring your child to our practice, and can consent for treatment during that visit. We will NOT be involved in any disputes regarding named individuals on your child(ren)’s consent to treat form. Both parents/legal guardians can see who is named on each other’s forms; however, we will not comply with requests to eliminate names on the other’s form, unless instructed by the Court. Please refer these requests to your attorney
3. Additionally, we will not:

a) Call the other parent for consent prior to treatment or inform the other parent whenever visits are scheduled.

b) Restrict either parent’s/legal guardian’s involvement in your child(ren)’s care, unless authorized by law.

c) Tolerate appointment scheduling/cancelling patterns of behavior between parents.

1. It is both parent’s responsibility to communicate with each other about the patients care, office dates/visits and any other pertinent information relevant to the care of the child. Please do not ask our providers to call the non-attending parent following visits, as this is extremely disruptive to our ability to stay on schedule and care for other children.
2. Should the issues that come between parents become disruptive to our practice or impede the care of children, we reserve the right to discharge your family from further treatment.

Approved by: HCH

DAR

SA-W

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