

Olentangy Pediatrics, Inc.

Separated Parents/Divorce/Marital Discord Guidelines

At Olentangy Pediatrics, we understand that a family comes in many different forms. Our practice's focus is to provide complete and thorough medical care to your child(ren). Single parenthood, blended families, separation, divorce, and marital discord can sometimes present communication barriers between caregivers.

In order to prevent communication issues from impacting our ability to provide medical care to your child(ren), our practice has adopted the following guidelines:

- In the absence of any legal documentation provided to us, both biological parents will have equal access to a patient's medical record. Both parents may create an account in our Athena Health Patient portal. In our patient portal, both parents will have access to upcoming appointments, immunization records, medication list, summary of visits, as well as access to send medical questions, schedule appointments, etc.
- In the absence of any legal documentation provided to us, both biological parents will have the ability to make medical decisions on behalf of the child(ren). As a practice, we will NOT consult with the other parent about a medical decision, unless legally required to by law.
- Conflict over vaccinations will need to be decided between the parents. Our office follows the schedule as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. If the parents are in a disagreement over vaccines, we will proceed with the vaccinations as decided by the parent who is present at that specific visit. We will NOT place a phone call to the other parent to verify vaccines or medication choices.
- Our practice will NOT affirmatively call (or otherwise notify) a parent in the case of an appointment scheduled by a different parent. We will contact the parent who brought the child(ren) to the appointment for any follow-up results. We may attempt to contact the other parent if the parent who had been present at the appointment was not reachable.
- If legal documentation shows a change in parental rights or authority in making medical decisions, please provide us a copy of the legal documentation with the relevant sections highlighted. Our practice does not hold itself out to be an expert in analyzing and interpreting parental custody agreements and we will not decide disputes between parents regarding the legal language and effect of any legal documentation.
- This practice will always use its discretion in determining whether to classify a recommended treatment as major or minor medical decision with respect to which parent must be provided notice and/or consent. At all times, the practice will use its discretion in interpreting parental custody agreements in the best interest of the child(ren).
- We cannot mediate financial disputes. All copay, deductibles, coinsurance, and any other fees are due at the time of visit and the responsibility of the parent accompanying the child(ren) to the appointments. Any disputes about medical reimbursement need to be settled between the parents privately
- Our practice exists to care for children. We do NOT get involved in custody disputes between parents unless there is a verified report of abuse, neglect, danger or comparable towards the child(ren). We do NOT write affidavits specifying which parent is the "better" parent. We do NOT testify in court for the above either. Any subpoenas and/or depositions will be charged at the physician's customary hourly rate. We typically recommend requesting a copy of the child's medical record to submit to the court. This record will be charged at our customary rate for the production of paper medical records.
- If parental disagreements become disruptive to our practice or the care of the child(ren), our practice reserves the right to discharge the family from our care.