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WHAT IS CONFIDENTIALITY?

Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary states the following: "Information the health care team obtains from or about a client, i.e. medical history and other such data, are considered to be privileged and thus cannot be disclosed to a 3rd party without the client's/client's family consent." A third party is anyone who is not considered part of the "treatment team". In the hippotherapy/therapeutic riding setting, the treatment team includes the therapist, the NARHA instructor, the board of directors governing the program/business (in our current situation this involves only Karen – it could also involve the board of directors of any funding agencies such as the Foundation for Positively Kids), the horse handler, the sidewalkers, other volunteers assisting in the immediate environment, the client and the client's family members. Third parties include: other clients/families that come to the hippotherapy/therapeutic riding setting, volunteers who did not participate in a specific therapy session, and members of your own family who are not actually on the team.

Information collected on volunteers is also considered privileged information that is available only to the people who are directly responsible for them such as the therapist, board of directors or the therapeutic riding instructor. It may not be shared with a third party without the consent of the volunteer.

A good rule to follow is to talk about a hippotherapy/therapeutic riding client only during your time volunteering or working for the client. "What is done during hippotherapy/therapeutic riding "stays" at the session site....."

All members of the treatment team must clearly understand and be held responsible for maintaining client/student confidentiality