

To be read and signed by all agency clients and volunteers.

Access to Confidential Records

In order for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Idaho to provide a responsible and professional service to clients, it is necessary for volunteers, clients and parents/guardians of clients to be asked to divulge extensive personal information about themselves and their families. The agency (SW Idaho) respects the confidentiality of client and volunteer records and, with the exception of situations listed below, shares information about clients and volunteers only among the agency professional staff. The right to confidentiality applies not only to written records, but to video, film, pictures and use of client's or volunteer's name in agency publications.

All records are considered the property of the agency and not the agency workers, clients or volunteers themselves. In order to provide a service which is in the best interest of the children served by the program, information from outside sources, including confidential references, must be assessed, along with information gained from the clients or volunteers themselves. Records are not available for review by the clients or volunteers. Clients and volunteers shall be provided, at the time of application, a copy of this statement on confidentiality, along with exceptions which define the limits of confidentiality. Clients and volunteers shall sign a statement that he/she/they has read and understands the agency policy on confidentiality and agrees to program participation under the guidelines it sets forth. Please note, any information released by email or fax may not be secured.

Limits of Confidentiality

1. Information will be released to other individuals or organizations only upon presentation of an authorized "consent to release information" form appropriately signed by the client or volunteer.
2. Information will be requested from other organizations upon presentation of an authorized "consent to release information" form signed by the client or volunteer.
3. Identifying information regarding clients and volunteers may be used in agency publications or promotional materials if the client or volunteer has given permission.
4. For purposes of program evaluation, audit or accreditation, and with the prior approval of the Board of Directors, certain outside bodies, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, may have access to client and volunteer records. These outside organizations shall be required to respect the agency policy on confidentiality. Outside parties shall be required to use information only for the purpose(s) stated in the approved action of the Board or Directors. Known violations of the agency confidentiality policy will be reported to the supervisor of the individual involved, and appropriate disciplinary action shall be requested.
5. Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors have access to client files only upon authorization by formal motion of the Board of Directors. The motion shall state who shall be authorized to review records, the specific purpose for such review, and the period of time during which access shall be granted. Members shall be required to comply with the agency policies on confidentiality and may use the information only for purposes stated by the approved action of the Board of Directors. Known violations shall be reported to the Board President. A violation of the agency's confidentiality policy by a Board Member shall constitute adequate case for removal from office.

CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

6. Information shall only be provided to law enforcement officials or the courts pursuant to a valid and enforceable subpoena.
7. Information shall be provided to the agency's legal counsel in the event of litigation or potential litigation involving the agency. Such information is considered privileged information, and its confidentiality is protected by law.
8. State law mandates that suspected child abuse be reported to the appropriate local law enforcement or child protection office within 24 hours. All workers are responsible for staying abreast of such reporting requirements of their respective jurisdiction and shall always comply with mandated procedures.
9. If an agency worker receives information indicating that a client or volunteer may be dangerous to himself or herself, or to others, necessary steps may be taken to protect the appropriate party. This may include a medical referral or a report to the local law enforcement authorities.
10. A volunteer who is rejected will not be told why; that decision is the at the sole discretion of Big Brothers Big Sisters staff.

I have read and understand the above document which states the agency policy with respect to confidentiality of client and volunteer records. I agree to program participation under the conditions set forth.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____