



## **Bridgewater Pediatrics Boston Children's Primary Care Alliance**

### **SEPARATION AND DIVORCE POLICY**

Many of our patients are children whose parents are either separated or divorced. Our primary concern for these children is to promote their health and well-being. In such situations, we are happy to work with either or both parents to make sure the child's healthcare needs are met.

In general, we ask that parents/guardians NOT place our office in the middle of family disagreements. If parents/guardians become disruptive to our organization or there is non-compliance with this policy, we reserve the right to terminate the patient/doctor relationship so care can be transferred to another practice.

When a minor child visits our office accompanied by either parent, we will assume that parent has full or joint legal custody, hence the authority to make medical decisions for the child, unless we are instructed otherwise, in writing, by a legal authority. If you have a COURT ORDER restricting the rights of one of the parents/guardians, please present this to our office. Should an existing court order change, it is your responsibility to provide the practice with the most up-to-date copy. We will assume the last copy we have on file is the most current and will abide by that.

It is essential that we can depend on the child's parents to communicate clearly with each other about the child's health status and healthcare plans. Our general approach is to communicate our medical assessments and recommendations with the parent who accompanies the child to the office. It is not feasible for us to take the responsibility of contacting each parent separately every time we see the child in the office. We are, however, happy to receive inquiries about the child's health from either parent at any time. Note that it may not always be possible to answer all your questions through electronic communication; a call or visit may be required.

We cannot mediate financial disputes between the two parents. When children visit our office, we hold the accompanying parent or guardian responsible for any payments required, regardless of divorce decree. Any disputes about reimbursement for medical expenses need to be settled between the parents privately.