



Policy for Divorced or Separated Parents

Our highest priority is the care of our patients. We have many patients whose parents are either separated or divorced and we are happy to work with either or both parents to make sure the child's healthcare needs are met.

When a child is seen in our office and accompanied by either parent, we will assume that parent has the authority to make medical decisions for the child, unless we are instructed otherwise by legal documentation.

It is essential that both parents reach an agreement regarding their child's healthcare needs prior to arriving at our office as we will not mediate disagreements. We will discuss our medical assessments and recommendations with the parent who accompanies the child to the office or contacts us by telephone or portal. However, we are happy to answer any questions regarding your child's health from either parent at any time.

Copays will be collected at the time of service by the accompanying parent or guardian, regardless of divorce decree. If the court agreement states otherwise, we will be happy to provide a receipt at the time of the visit for medical reimbursement to be settled privately between parents.

Yearly paperwork should be completed the same by each parent. Both parents need to discuss and agree on how demographics should be completed. This includes home and billing address and who should be listed on the HIPAA. Patient demographics will be updated based on the most recent update we have been given.

It is essential that parents communicate with each other regarding insurance policies. There are often times when a child has more than one insurance policy. In these situations, all policies must be made aware of each other. It is the parents' responsibility to make sure Coordination of Benefits (COB) is updated so that claims are processed and paid correctly. If we are made aware of a COB issue and it is not resolved, all insurance policies will be inactivated and patient will be considered self-pay until this issue is resolved.

Tuscaloosa Pediatrics providers and staff will not become involved in disputes between family members. Should a dispute interfere with your child's healthcare, or should an issue become disruptive to our practice, we will discharge the patient from further treatment.