

Confidentiality

All Compass of Carolina employees work under strict confidentiality rules and all clients are required to sign contracts indicating that they will also abide by these rules. Clients may not repeat anything outside of class that could lead to the identification of another client. If it is determined that a client has broken confidentiality, that client will be dropped from the program.

Due to confidentiality, no one may attend classes without going through the FVIP enrollment process.

Limits to Confidentiality

Confidentiality remains the right of all our clients. The ethical codes of the American Psychological Association and the laws of South Carolina guide the policies of Compass of Carolina in this regard. Information you share with Compass employees is confidential. Law enforcement officials, potential employers, and others have no access to any of your records without your written permission. There are, however, exceptions to confidentiality that are mandated by law. These exceptions are:

- If you are clearly likely to do physical harm to another person in the near future, it is our duty to warn the person involved. This step would be taken as a last resort and only if absolutely necessary.
- If you are clearly likely to do physical harm to yourself in the near future, it is our duty to contact others. This step would be taken as a last resort and only if absolutely necessary.
- If you share information about the abuse or neglect of any juvenile(s) or disabled adult(s), we may be required by state law to report this information to the Department of Social Services.
- If a client is seventeen or younger, parents may have legal access to your records.
- If ordered by a judge to testify or provide counseling records as part of a judicial proceeding, we would be required to comply. Such a situation may arise in child custody proceedings or in proceedings in which your emotional condition is an important element.
- Counselors may receive supervision from senior staff. This means that information you share with a counselor may be reviewed by a supervisor to ensure that you are receiving the highest quality of service. It is your right to know the name of your counselor's supervisor. Your counselor also may seek consultation with other professional psychologists and counselors in order to help you better deal with your concerns. The counseling staff of Compass may share access to your counseling files for the purpose of coordinating your care. You may limit sharing of information between providers. If you have any questions or concerns regarding confidentiality, please feel free to discuss them with us.