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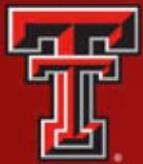
Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

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Ethics in Mental Health

TCHATT

(Texas Child Health Through Telemedicine)



Mental Health Protections

- Texas Law (Statutes) provides **guidelines** for serving individuals with mental illness to assure rights: record confidentiality, adequate treatment methods, admissions, use of medications, record access, and information about protection and advocacy.
- 1) Requires that mental health services be delivered in the most integrated setting possible.
 - Provides patient with greatest probability of improvement and is no more restrictive of social liberties than necessary to provide patient with most effective treatment and to protect against danger to self and others. (Sec.571.004)



Texas Consent and Confidentiality

- In Texas, a minor is defined as a person under eighteen years of age who has never been married and never been declared an adult by a court (emancipated).
- **Limitations:** Limitations: Confidential care cannot be provided when the law requires parental notification or consent or when the law requires the provider to report health information. Texas Family Code § 32.003.





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Adolescence

Adolescence brings an increased participation in high-risk behaviors. The leading causes of adolescent mortality are accidents, homicide, and suicide. Health-care providers and other professionals should communicate openly that they have a suspicion or concern about a young person's behavior. Young people engaging in high-risk behaviors need to get help as soon as possible.

- Reckless driving • Distracted driving • Violence • Suicidal and self-injurious behaviors • Sexual behaviors
- Substance use • Disordered eating • Poor nutrition • Inadequate physical activity



Requirements for reporting abuse and neglect

A professional who has reason to believe a minor's health and safety may be affected by abuse or neglect must report the case to a local law enforcement agency or to the Child Protective Services (CPS) Division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services within 48 hours of when he or she first suspects that the child has been or may be abused or neglected. A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report. Texas Family Code § 261.101