

SHARED CUSTODY CO-PARENTING POLICY

At Wareham Pediatric Associates, our goal is to partner with parents to keep kids healthy! We appreciate that child(ren) with divorced or separated parents may present with unique challenges, and we require parents to work with us through those challenges. This policy was developed to avoid any misunderstandings going forward.

1. The providers, nurses, and office staff will not be put in the middle of domestic issues, custody issues or disagreements over the phone or in the office.
2. Please make decisions regarding appointments, vaccinations, and/or any office procedures prior to visiting our practice.
3. Only in situations where there is a documented court order will one parent be denied access to the minor's health record or visits at the office. Wareham Pediatric Associates must have a copy of the court order on file in the minor's electronic medical record.
4. It is both parents' responsibility to communicate with each other about the patient's care, office visit dates, and any other pertinent information relevant to the patient. It is not the responsibility of Wareham Pediatric Associates to communicate visit information to each custodial parent separately.
5. Our providers will not call the other parent prior to an appointment to gain consent regarding appointments scheduled, nor will they take a call from the other parent following an appointment. We will not restrict either parent's involvement in the patient's care unless authorized by law; however, we also will not duplicate information delivery unless directed by law.
6. We will send reminders of upcoming appointments by text and/or phone call. We can send this reminder to only the primary phone number listed on the patient's account. The parent or guardian that completes and signs our new patient packet will be the chart guarantor and therefore receive these reminders.
7. At Wareham Pediatric Associates, our sole focus is the compassionate evidence-based health care of your child. If there is a disagreement between parents, it is the duty of the parents to either come to an agreement on their own or obtain a court order. Unless a court order has been given to our office, the parent who is present in the office at the time of the appointment will be the one that takes part in the medical advice discussion and ultimately be the one who makes the medical care decision with the provider.

8. Our office will not take part in medical letter writing pertaining to custody and divorce, nor will we take part in any family legal court proceedings.
9. All copays, deductibles, coinsurances, and any other fees are due at the time of the visit and are the responsibility of the parent accompanying the patient to the appointment. If there is an arrangement between the parents about split payment, it is the responsibility of the parent attending the appointment to collect from the other parent.

Should the issues that come between parents become disruptive to our practice or there is non-compliance with this policy, we reserve the right to discharge the family from our practice.