



Summit Academy

Parent/Guardian Permission for Counseling Services

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

I give consent for my child to participate in school counseling services. Our schools offer short-term individual counseling to students, as well as small group counseling. Skill areas that may be addressed in these settings include: friendship and social skills; dealing with anger; anxiety; sadness or loss; learning self-control; improving self-esteem; leadership skills; and making responsible choices (Utah Board Rule R277-313). If the need arises, my child may discuss issues addressed by Utah law (see below) with the school counselor/social worker. This permission will remain in effect for the current school year unless written withdrawal is received by the school counselor or principal.

- ☐ By checking this box, I waive the state mandated two week waiting period so that counseling services may begin immediately.
- ☐ As counseling services may be needed at various times, by checking this box, along with my signature, I allow the school to provide counseling services to my student as the need arises throughout this school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Relationship to Student

Date

For additional information, please contact the school counselor/social worker or principal.

Legal Information

Under Utah Code Section 53E-9-203 of the Utah Family Rights and Privacy Act, school district personnel are required to have your consent as parent or legal guardian, except in exigent circumstances (an emergency situation requiring immediate aid or action), in which the purpose or evident intended effect is to cause the student to reveal information, whether the information is personally identifiable or not, concerning the student's or any family member's: (a) political affiliations or, except as provided under Section 53G-10-202 or rules of the State Board of Education, political philosophies; (b) mental or psychological problems; (c) sexual behavior, orientation, or attitudes; (d) illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; (e) critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student or family member has close family relationships; (f) religious affiliations or beliefs; (g) legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, medical personnel, or ministers; and (h) income, except as required by law.

Authorized personnel may address identified topics if the omission would compromise the student's immediate safety, the student discloses information that creates a duty for the authorized personnel to make a mandatory report; in this case, the authorized personnel may further discuss the topic only to the extent necessary to make the report, or, if suspected cases of child abuse or neglect under Utah Code Section 80-2-602, abuse of a student under Utah Code Section 53E-6-701, or any other legally mandated duty to report an incident (Utah Code Section 53G-9-902).

Contents of all counseling sessions are considered confidential. Both verbal information and written records about a student are protected under law and cannot be shared with another party without the consent of the student or the student's legal guardian. Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), counselors may disclose "need to know" information with administrators, teachers and other staff who have "legitimate educational interests" without obtaining written consent. Information can also be disclosed without written consent in an emergency situation if necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.