

This is “Peer Counseling Pause” with Reova Meredith

Exceptions to the Confidentiality Rule

Confidentiality is most important for the counseling situation to be successful. A client must feel safe to be able to disclose.

However, there are three situations where the rule of confidentiality does not apply:

Suicidal Behavior: when the client threatens to harm himself.

Homicidal Behavior: when the client threatens to harm another person.

Abuse: Abuse to a child, the elderly or an invalid (someone unable to defend themself.)

In some states the law requires not only the disclosure of abuse, but even the suspicion of abuse.

Failure to report abuse could result in prosecution of anyone in possession of such knowledge that is not reported.