**THUNDER BAY INDIAN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE**

**POLICY TITLE: LIMITS OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

**POLICY**

All written or verbal statements made by a client or their partner (either to a counselor or in a group) will be held as confidential. They will only be shared if a written consent form is signed or, if any of the following four exceptions apply;

**EXCEPTIONS**

Program staff will provide information without the consent of the client, in the following cases:

1. Staff has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection, the staff shall forthwith report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to the Children’s Aid Society or Dilico Ojibway Child & Family Worker/Supervisor assigned to that case, not the client as this may interfere with the Child Welfare Services investigation. Staff members are under no obligation to advise the client that they made the referral to the Child Welfare Agency.   
   (s. 72(1)**Child and Family Services Act)**
2. The client a) has threatened or attempted or is threatening or attempting to cause bodily harm to himself or herself; b) has behaved or is behaving violently towards another person or has caused or is causing another person to fear bodily harm from him or himself; in the presence of program staff or other clients, program staff will immediately notify the police, and warn the potential victim if applicable.  
   (s. 16(1) **Mental Health Act)**
3. The courts subpoena a client’s file, program supervisor or in their absence executive director will be notified and appropriate procedures will be followed.
4. The participant is in the program by court mandate, in accordance with established procedures, in the court, probation and parole services will be informed about the client’s attendance, participation, or any act of violent behaviour which constitutes a violation of the condition of any court order.

Along with this obligation, we will ensure that the client is supported through the process by referring them to appropriate services/ programs without jeopardizing the safety of the staff involved.

A copy of the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre’s CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY will be given to the client’s partner if applicable.

MONITOR   
The Executive Director, or her designate, will monitor this policy.

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2001  
 REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

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\_\_\_\_\_\_ Executive Director Date

I have had this Confidentiality Policy explained to me, and fully understand the obligation of the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre and its Staff.

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Client Date