

OCEANVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

CONFIDENTIALITY GUIDELINES

Your confidentiality as a student is important to us! In our school counseling office, what is said here, stays here, with the following exceptions, as required by law and/or ethical standards:

1. Harm to self or others

This could include things like a suicide attempt or plan, cutting or other self-injury, eating disorders, addictions, fighting or other physical violence, illegal behaviors, threats, etc. – anything that puts your health or safety, or someone else’s health and safety, at risk.

2. Abuse or neglect

If you talk with one of us about abuse (physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, or other abuse) whether to yourself or to another minor, we are required by law to report it to Child Protective Services, and possibly the police. If you tell us about a case that’s already been addressed by CPS or the police, we may still need to make a call to double check.

3. Court or other legal proceedings

By law, if we are subpoenaed (required by law to attend a hearing or other court proceeding), we cannot guarantee that your information will be kept confidential. We will always do our best to reveal as little as possible in a legal setting, but we must cooperate with the police, CPS, and the courts.

If there is ever a need to reveal information, we will let you know in advance, and work with you to handle the situation in a way that respects you, your feelings, and your needs.