

Mary Determan MSW, LLC

5757 W. Oklahoma Ave. #203 Milwaukee, WI 53219-4303

CONSENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR ANIMAL ASSISTED PLAY THERAPY

Animal-Assisted play therapy is part of the services at *Mary Determan MSW, LLC*. Your child may take part in a session that can include a therapy cat, although you also have the option of choosing not to have a therapy cat present. *Mary Determan MSW, LLC* is responsible for the welfare of our cats. Also, as a cat, their behavior cannot always be predictable. Therefore it is important to discuss in advance both the rules needed to insure their safety and health, and create as safe a working environment as possible.

Because our services can include a therapy cat, there are more inherent risks. While every effort has been made to list potential risks below, we cannot foresee all problems that may occur. By signing this form, you are releasing *Mary Determan MSW, LLC* from any liability should injury occur as part of your session.

RULES

1. The therapy cats have individual rights, just as each client has rights. Therefore, the cats are allowed to determine if and when they will participate.
2. The therapy cat will have a quiet space in the room where s/he can rest or take a quiet break if necessary. When s/he is in their quiet place, s/he should not be disturbed.
3. The therapy cat is *always* to be treated gently. This includes never hitting, teasing, pulling of their tail or any other part, or treated in any other way that is uncomfortable to him/her
4. The therapy cat is not to be carried or lifted in any way.
5. If the therapy cat becomes scared, irritated or reacts in any negative manner, the therapist will put him/her in a safe place. No other person should touch him/her at these times.
6. Please wash/sanitize hands before and after playing with a cat.

RISKS

1. Cats often use their mouths and claws in play and exploration. Therefore, even when playing it is possible for a scratch or gentle bite to occur.
2. The therapy cat has received all necessary vaccinations and veterinary care necessary to work as a therapy animal. However, animals do sometimes carry diseases and present a small risk of transmission to humans.

By signing below, you are stating your acceptance of these rules and risks and agree to accept full liability in the event that the therapy cat harms you/your child in any way in the course of working with *Mary Determan MSW, LLC*.

Client name: _____

Client Signature/Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 14) Date

Therapist Date