

Limits of Confidentiality

Duty to Warn

Court cases have held that when an individual indicates the intention of doing something harmful, dangerous, or criminal to self or others, it is the professional's duty to warn appropriate parties. This includes:

- C The family of an individual who intends to harm her- or himself
- C Others the individual actions may harm
- C Appropriate authorities and emergency responders

Duty to Report Child Abuse and Dependent Adult/Elderly Abuse

Many states mandate reports to appropriate agencies and authorities whenever there is actual or suspected child abuse (e.g., physical, sexual, neglect, emotional and psychological abuse, unlawful sexual intercourse).

Many states also require reporting whenever there is actual or suspected abuse to dependent adults and the elderly.