

Divorce & Custody Policy

The clinicians and staff at Dr. Bou Pediatrics will not discuss legal issues regarding divorce, separation, or custody agreements. We cannot be put in the middle of domestic issues or disagreements over the phone or in the office.

- When a child visits our office accompanied by either parent, we will assume the accompanying parent has full legal custody and authority to make medical decisions for the child, unless we are instructed otherwise in writing by a **Court Order**.
- Only in situations where there is a documented Court Order will one of the parents be denied access to the patient's health records or visit at the office. Dr. Bou Pediatrics must have a copy of this Court Order on file in the patient's medical record.
- It is the parents' responsibility to communicate with each other regarding the patient's care, office visits, and any other pertinent information relevant to the patient. It is not the responsibility of the pediatrician to communicate visit information to each parent separately. Our providers will not call the non-attending parent following visits. They can have access to the visits in writing with a signed medical release form, or by logging on to the patient portal. We reserve the right to charge an administrative fee for processing medical records requests.
- We will not call the other parent for consent regarding appointments or restrict either parent's involvement in the patient's care unless authorized by law.
- We will not tolerate patterns of appointment scheduling/canceling abuse.
- Please make decisions regarding vaccinating your children prior to visiting our practice. Our policy is to communicate our medical assessments and recommendations with the parent who accompanies the child to the office.
- We cannot mediate financial disputes between the two parents. When children visit our office, we hold the accompanying parent or guardian responsible for any payments required. Any disputes about reimbursement for medical expenses need to be settled between parents privately.
- Should the issues that come between parents become disruptive to our practice or impede the care of the patient, we reserve the right to discharge your family from further treatment.

Dr. Bou Pediatrics reserves the right to make changes to this policy at any point in time.