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PROVIDING CHILD-CENTERED CLINICAL SERVICES
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Regarding the 2022 federal “No Surprises Act” and your right to obtain a “Good Faith Estimate” of anticipated healthcare services

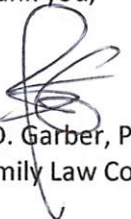
1. Under Section 2799B-6 of the Public Health Service Act, health care providers and health care facilities are required to inform individuals who are not enrolled in a plan or coverage or a Federal health care program, or not seeking to file a claim with their plan or coverage both orally and in writing of their ability, upon request or at the time of scheduling health care items and services, to receive a “Good Faith Estimate” of expected charges.
2. Dr. Garber provides two types of professional services:
 - (a) Clinical services include interventions and assessments intended to better understand and/or assist to individuals, couples, and/or families to relieve maladaptive thoughts, feelings, and/or behaviors. In general, the legal client or patient is also the person receiving the service. When minor children are involved in clinical services, the child’s legal guardian(s) are the legal client. Examples include individual, couples, and family psychotherapy.
 - (b) Forensic (or court-involved) services include interventions and assessments intended to help the court or a professional working in or for the court to better understand and/or to relieve maladaptive thoughts, feelings, and/or behaviors. In general, the legal client is NOT the person(s) being evaluated or served, as when the court orders a family systems evaluation, Parenting Coordination, co-parenting services, or a “reunification” intervention. In general, the legal client in forensic matters may be the court, the Guardian *ad litem*, a mediator, agency, or attorney.
3. The No Surprises Act appears only to be relevant to clinical services. In most cases, it is impossible to provide a clinical client or patient with an advance Good Faith Estimate of the total costs likely to be incurred in psychotherapy. If such an estimate is necessary, Dr. Garber recommends that the clinical patient or client think in ten (10) session epochs. Thus, a reasonable Good Faith Estimate for clinical services may be 10 x the hourly fee assigned to the particular service. The hourly fee will be discussed and documented in advance of the service. Dr. Garber will advise in advance of the end of each ten (10) session epoch whether another epoch should be considered and why. If the clinical patient or client agrees, then the Good Faith Estimate should be increased accordingly.

4. The No Surprises Act appears NOT to be relevant to forensic services. Individuals participating in forensic services are, nonetheless, generally asked to endorse an advance Statement of Understanding (a.k.a., Service Agreement) as a precondition for commencing services. This statement will include details about the costs of the proposed service. Individuals participating in forensic services are advised that the duration and thus the total costs of such services vary widely depending upon variables that cannot be known in advance such as whether Dr. Garber will be asked to provide a report, to be deposed, or to testify. When conducting a forensic evaluation, actual costs will further depend upon such variables as the complexity of the relationships and the history of those involved, whether psychological testing will be required, whether allied professionals and services become necessary, weather, travel time, language, and the extent of relevant documentation to be reviewed.
5. In both clinical and forensic service contexts, Dr. Garber will provide legally eligible participants with comprehensive billing information and/or an updated Good Faith Estimate of services upon request.
6. In both clinical and forensic service contexts, Dr. Garber is committed to working efficiently, transparently, and effectively toward identified goals.

Please reach Dr. Garber directly with any questions about the federal No Surprises Act, your Good Faith Estimate, and all related topics at bdgarberphd@FamilyLawConsulting.org.

More information is also available at: www.cms.gov/nosurprises.

Thank you,

 1/6/22
B.D. Garber, Ph.D.
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