



NWFP Parent Divorce and Separation Policy

At Newton-Wellesley Family Pediatrics, our primary responsibility is to provide the highest level of care for your child, and we value the trust you place in our team to support your family's health and well-being.

We understand that family dynamics can be challenging, especially during times of divorce or separation. In order to maintain a professional, ethical approach to your child's care, we would like to clarify our policy regarding these situations. As healthcare providers, our pediatricians and staff strive to remain neutral and objective in disputes related to custody or separation. This policy is in place for ethical reasons, as our focus is always on the health and best interests of the child, and we believe that maintaining this neutrality is essential to our role in your child's well-being, and helps avoid further stress or confusion.

Our goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for your child's health and well-being, and we support parents in approaching these conversations with their children with care and sensitivity. However, we believe that it is stressful for children to be caught up in choosing sides, and we strongly encourage you to be mindful of not using your children as a means of communication or leverage in these difficult matters.

When a minor child visits our office accompanied by either parent, we will assume that parent has full or joint legal custody, hence the authority to make medical decisions for the child, unless we are instructed otherwise, in writing, by a legal authority.

It is essential that we can depend on the child's parents to communicate clearly with each other about the child's health status and healthcare plans. Our general approach is to communicate our medical assessments and recommendations with the parent who accompanies the child to the office, or with the parent who contacts us by telephone or electronic communication. It is not feasible for us to take the responsibility of contacting each parent separately every time we see the child in the office. We are, however, happy to receive inquiries about the child's health from either parent at any time.

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, regardless of divorce decree. Any disputes about reimbursement for medical expenses need to be settled between the parents privately.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to support the health and well-being of your child and your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out our practice management.