

## **Working with Children from Families Who are Divorced or Separated Policy**

For all children under 18, who become clients at In Balance Physiotherapy and Fitness (IBPF), it is important that IBPF has the details of all parental information for both parents, even when those parents are separated or divorced.

Parents have a responsibility to provide IBPF with copies of any court orders that impact on the relationship between the family and therapy services. IBPF will accept only one parent's consent to commence therapy with a child, unless a court order, or parenting plan, stipulates that both parents must give consent for medical or allied health treatment, or that a specific parent must give consent.

In the absence of any specific court orders to the contrary, either parent can speak with a therapist currently seeing their child, including by phone or email dialogue. This includes updating each parent on current goals and progress being made. Costs of this contact with the therapists will be allocated to the funding program the child is accessing services under or to the enquiring party, under private funding arrangements.

In the absence of specific court orders, each parent is entitled to:

- know the current therapy goals and home practice activities,
- have access to documentation relating to his or her child, subject to the provisions of privacy legislation and the IBPF privacy policy.

Persons other than parents (e.g. grandparents) may bring a child in for therapy services but such participation is always subject to parental approval.

The IBPF Director must be made aware immediately of any Apprehended Personal Violence Orders and will work with the support team and therapists to put a plan in place to follow when dealing with families subject to such orders.

The IBPF Director will need to receive written notification, before any requests for therapists to provide written statements, or give evidence, on behalf of families involved in, family law related legal proceedings.