

Desert Shores Pediatrics
Our Practice Perspective for Divorced or Separated Parents

Desert Shores Pediatrics is dedicated to the health and well-being of our patients. Because our patients are children, we rely on parents and other supportive adults to assist us in their care. Children of divorced or separated parents sometimes present our practice with unique challenges, so we thought it was important to articulate our practice philosophy to you to avoid any misunderstandings going forward.

In general, we ask that parents NOT place our office in the middle of family disagreements. We rely on parents to keep our practice atmosphere calm, professional and caring.

1. Arizona law states that both parents, custodial or non-custodial, have a right to the child's medical record and information about their care. If Mom or Dad requests information, we will honor that request. If a Mom or Dad has a Court Order that restricts the other parent's role, we ask that you provide a copy of that document, along with a letter from your attorney that describes our office's legal obligations.
2. If a step-parent will be bringing the child in, a legal parent needs to fill out a medical proxy form. At any time, this can be revoked, if it is provided in writing.
3. It is the parents' responsibility to communicate with each other about the child's visit, dates of appointments, treatment recommendations, and other relevant issues. We will not call the other parent to discuss the visit due to lack of communication between parents.
4. The parent who brings the child in for an appointment is responsible for co-pays or insurance deductible payments at the time of service, even if the other parent is responsible for medical insurance. Please do not ask our office to collect payments from a parent who is not at or may be unaware of the visit.
5. In a non-urgent situation, if parents disagree about medical treatment (e.g. to vaccinate or not vaccinate) we will postpone recommended treatment until there is an agreement between both parents.
6. If there is an urgent situation and the child is extremely ill, **we will do what we feel is in the best interest of the child.** If this philosophy presents a problem for either parent, perhaps this might not be the right practice for you.
7. Other situations that are not in the best interest of your child and will not be tolerated:
 - a. One parent making appointments and the other one canceling them.
 - b. A parent who asks us to write or say negative things about the other parent.
 - c. Parents who fight or create conflict in our offices.
 - d. Any other behaviors which interfere with our ability to provide excellent medical care to all of our patients in a warm and peaceful environment.
 - e. Changing demographics, email address or portal username/password without notifying other parent

We sincerely appreciate your trust in us, and ours in you, to work together in the best interest of children's health.

Child(ren)'s Name and DOB: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Printed Name: _____