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General & Cosmetic Dentistry

Patient-Dentist Arbitration Agreement

Article I.

It is understood that any dispute as to dental malpractice, this, as to whether any dental services rendered under this contract were unnecessary or unauthorized or were improperly, negligently or incompetently rendered, would be determined by submission to arbitration as provided by California Law, and not by a lawsuit, or resort to court process, except as California law provides for judicial review or arbitration proceedings. Both parties of this contract by entering into it, have given up their constitutional right to have any such dispute decided in a court of law before a jury, and instead are accepting the use of arbitration.

Treatment in this office is contingent upon both parties consenting to this Arbitration Agreement.

Article II.

A. Parties to the Agreement:

The term "patient" as used in this agreement includes the undersigned individual, his or her spouse, children (whether born or unborn), and heirs, assigns or personal representatives. The individual signing this Agreement signs it on behalf of the foregoing persons, and intends to bind each of them to arbitration to the full extent permitted by law.

The term "doctor" as used in this agreement includes the undersigned doctor and his or her professional corporation or partnership, and any employees, agents, successors in interest, heirs and assigns of the foregoing individuals or entities and independent contractors. The doctor signing this agreement signs it on behalf of all the foregoing individual and entities, and intends to bind each of them to arbitration to full extent permitted by law.

B. Treatment Covered:

Patient understands and agrees that any dispute of the sort described in Article I between doctor and patient will be subject to compulsory, binding arbitration.

C. Coverage of Pre-Natal Claims (If Applicable):

Patient understands and agrees that, if doctor treats her during pregnancy, any dispute or sort described in Article I as to dental treatment rendered to or affecting the unborn child will be subject to compulsory, binding arbitration.

Article III.

A. Informal Resolution of Disputes:

In the event patient feels that a problem has arisen in connection with the dental care rendered by doctor to patient, patient will promptly notify doctor so that doctor may have the opportunity to resolve the matter. Notice may be given orally or in writing, and shall stop the running or statute of limitations for ninety (90) days.

B. Method of Initiating Arbitration:

If the dispute is not resolved by mutual Agreement within ninety (90) days, patient may initiate arbitration by notifying doctor to that effect. The arbitrator shall be selected by the chief administrator of JAMS ENDISPUTE. The arbitrator must be selected within twenty-one (21) days of the signature on the receipt for a letter sent certified mail return receipt request demanding that a dispute submitted to arbitration. Following the selection of the arbitrator, arbitration must be held within thirty (30) days.

C. Applicable Law:

The arbitration shall be conducted pursuant the California Arbitration Act (C.C.P. 1280-1296). The Arbitrator shall, in addition, have authority to order such other discovery as he/she deemed appropriate for a full and fair hearing of the case. A determination on the merits shall be rendered in accordance with the law of the State of California, including the provisions of the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act 1975 which shall apply to the same extent as if to dispute or pending before a Superior Court of the State of California.

The arbitrator shall not have the power to commit errors of law or legal reasoning, and the arbitrator's decision may be vacated or corrected pursuant the California Code of Civil Procedure Sections 12806.2 or 12086.6 for any such error.

The prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney fees.

Article IV.

A. Revocation:

If you are signing this agreement and then change your mind, the law permits you to revoke the Agreement providing you give your doctor written notice within thirty (30) days of signing that you want to withdraw from the Agreement. However, doctor and patient agree that any claim arising for dental services rendered prior to revocation shall be subjected to arbitration. Furthermore, doctor is not obligated to continue the doctor/patient relationship should you decide to withdraw from the agreement.

NOTICE: BY SIGNING THIS CONTRACT, YOU ARE AGREEING TO HAVE ANY ISSUE OF DENTAL MALPRACTICE DECIDED BY MUTUAL ARBITRATION AND YOU ARE GIVING UP RIGHT TO JURY OR COURT TRIAL, SEE ARTICLE I OF THIS CONTRACT.

PATIENT'S NAME: (Please Print): _____

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____

SIGNED: _____

Patient/Legal Guardian

SIGNED: _____

Witness