When may a mental health professional use professional judgment to decide whether to share a minor patient’s treatment information with a parent?

If A, B, or C applies, a parent is not a minor patient’s personal representative. If D applies, the provider may choose not to treat a parent as the minor patient’s personal representative.

A: Parent has voluntarily agreed to minor’s confidentiality.
B: Minor consented to treatment & no other consent is required by law.
C: Minor may obtain a health care service without parental consent and the child, a court or authorized person has consented.
D: Provider has a reasonable belief that the parent has abused or neglected the minor or could endanger the minor.

Parent is not the personal representative or the provider may use professional judgment to decide not to treat the parent as the personal representative.

This infographic applies to clients/patients who are under the age of majority (less than 18 years old in most states) and who are not emancipated (e.g., through marriage or a court order).