

## GENERAL PRACTICE INFORMED CONSENT AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE

Sue Speake is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (License #MFC32018) and a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (License #664). This is a private practice. Sue Speake, LMFT, LPCC is the sole practitioner.

### Fees and Insurance

Charges are as follows:

- Initial Phone Intake — no charge
- Counseling or Case Consultation Sessions — \$90 per forty-five minutes, \$45 per 30 minutes
- Individual Therapy for Licensed Clinicians — \$100 per forty-five-minutes

Rates are subject to change with advanced notification.

A 12-hour notice is required to cancel a scheduled appointment. If you need to cancel and fail to do so at least 12 hours in advance, there will be a \$25 charge.

Sue Speake does not accept insurance and is not on any insurance panels. A superbill is available upon request, should you want to submit one to your insurance company.

Payments may be made with a *debit* or *credit card* via the online practice site, when you arrive for your appointment. Payment may also be made via *check* — mailed the morning of your appointment — payable to Sue Speake, PO Box 22254 Bakersfield, CA 93390.

A \$25 fee will be charged for checks returned due to insufficient funds — should this be repeated, you may be asked to use a debit or credit card. If financial limitations are preventing you from continuing services, please inform Sue Speake and explore options that may be available.

### Additional Fees

Copies of Protected Health Information require a release of information.

- Hard copies only are provided. There is a \$.20 fee per page.
- Letter writing on your behalf is \$25 per hour — starting after the first 30-minutes.
- Sue Speake, LMFT does not email confidential documents.

If Sue Speake, LMFT is required to testify in court, you will be charged \$100 per hour — plus time spent at the court waiting to testify and travel time. Court ordered counseling and related issues will be referred to another clinic. Sue Speake, LMFT offers supportive online counseling service. Court related issues fall outside this service.

### Confidentiality

All communications between you and your therapist will be held in strict confidence unless you provide written permission to release information about your treatment. There are exceptions to confidentiality. For example, therapists are required to report instances of suspected child, dependent adult or elder abuse. Therapists may also be required or permitted to break confidentiality when they have determined that a patient presents a serious danger of physical violence to another person or when a patient is dangerous to him or herself.

### Emergencies

Sue Speake offers supportive counseling — this is because she only offers online therapy. Complex mental health issues, crisis cases, and abuse situations are referred to therapists or community resources that offer face-to-face support and are better prepared to provide the needed assistance. Sue Speake does not offer services to minors.

You may leave a message or text for your therapist. If you wish your therapist to return your call, please leave your name and phone number, along with a brief message concerning the nature of your call. Phone calls are returned during the therapist's normal workdays within 24 hours. If you have an urgent need to speak with your therapist, please say that in your message.

In the event of a medical emergency, psychiatric emergency, or an emergency involving a threat to your safety or the safety of others, please go to the nearest emergency hospital or call 911 to request emergency assistance.

### Termination of Therapy

You may discontinue therapy at any time. If you or your therapist determines that you are not benefiting from treatment, either of you may elect to initiate a discussion of your treatment alternatives. Treatment alternatives may include, among other possibilities, referral, changing your treatment plan, or terminating your therapy.

### Notice to Clients

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice of (marriage and family therapists, licensed educational psychologists, clinical social workers, or professional clinical counselors). You may contact the board online at [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov), or by calling (916) 574-7830.

Please ask your therapist to address any questions or concerns that you have about this information before begin services.

Information provided by Sue Speake, LMFT, LPCC