



Health and Therapy for Women

INFORMED CONSENT FOR GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY

The following are parameters and guidelines to our Group Psychotherapy program. Prior to enrollment, a participant will consent and abide by the following:

Safe Environment. A safe environment is created and maintained by all members of the group. ***Mutual respect*** and ***trust*** are primary goals of the group process.

Providing a safe environment is based on ***confidentiality***. Dr. Petrongelli is bound by ethics and law to maintain confidentiality, as group participants are bound by honor to keep what is said in the group - in the group. We realize that others want to share what you are learning in group with a family member. This is allowed as long as participants do not reveal how events unfold in the group or in any other way compromise the confidentiality of other group members. Being able to express freely in the group is part of the process of learning to become more honest with oneself and choices one wants to make. Knowing that you ***trust*** the group process is essential for an effective group experience.

Confidentiality. Ordinarily, all communications and records created in the process of psychotherapy are held in the strictest confidence. Participants should know that there are certain situations in which it is required by law to reveal information obtained during therapy to other persons or agencies without a participant's permission. Further, it is not required to inform participants of reported actions in this regard. These situations are as follows: (1) If a participant threaten grave or bodily harm or death to another person, (2) If a court of law issues a court order (signed by a judge), (3) If a participant reveals information relative to child abuse, child neglect, or elder abuse, (4) If a participant is enrolled in therapy as a requirement by order of a court of law, the results of the treatment ordered must be revealed to the court; (5) If a participant is seeking payment through an insurance company,

Social settings outside of the group. There may be a time when paths cross outside of the therapy session. by making any gesture to you minimal if at all. It will be understood that you or I are not being rude, simply maintaining the therapeutic boundary. You may approach me if you like, although I will keep conversation minimal, again to maintain your privacy. There may be a time when group members may cross paths of other group members. Keep interaction to a minimum unless desired by both parties. Be respectful to not reveal anything related to the group outside of the group.

Records. Participants have a right to review their records and must be requested in writing. Reasonable copy and consultation fees apply. Any part of your record in the files can be released, or any person or agency you designate so long as all necessary releases of information have been given. Records will only include the patient's personal progress with the group process and topics discussed. Dr. Petrongelli will discuss with a participant whether or not releasing the information in question to others or an agency might be harmful in any way.

Conduct. Members of a group may not use drugs or alcohol before or during group. Participants of a group should not engage in discussion of group issues outside of the group. Participants of group should remember that keeping confidentiality allows for an environment where trust can be built and all members may benefit from the safety of being able to participate in the group experience. Dr. Petrongelli will monitor discussions and maintain a respectful environment to keep safety and trust a priority.

Attendance. A participant's presence in the group is highly important. Once a group dynamic is formed this facilitates an environment for growth and change. If a participant is absent from the group this dynamic suffers and affects the experience of you and other members of the group. Therefore, participants are asked that you make this commitment a top priority for the duration of the group. It is understood that occasionally an emergency may occur that will prevent you from attending a group. If you are faced with an emergency or illness (signs of Covid-19) please contact our office before the scheduled group time. As the dynamic of a group begins to morph, it usually takes several group sessions for participants to "settle in." An 8 week commitment is required for If for any reason you will not be able to complete the group, we are asking for a week notice so that you and other group members may have some closure with this group. If the group member can not make the start date of the group series date, the member may start on the 2nd date. If the member can not make the 1st or the 2nd group session, the administrative fee will not be refunded and we ask the member to consider another series date.

Financial. The fee for this group is \$ 50.00 per 90 minute session. You are responsible to pay for each session except in the case of a true emergency. Payments are processed after each group session with your permission on the session fee agreement and designated payment method. When a client is a minor, counseling fees are the responsibility of the parent/parents or legal guardian. There is a \$ 20.00 administrative fee assessed upon registering for the group. The fee will be applied to the first group session of the 8 week series. If a group is not attended by the 2nd scheduled group session date, the administrative fee will not be refunded. I understand that I have the right to seek legal recourse to collect any unpaid balance. In pursuing this, Health and Therapy for Women will only disclose biographical information and the amount owed, in order to ensure confidentiality.

Consent: I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above information and agree to participate in group psychotherapy as stated.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____