

MICHAEL D. EASTRIDGE, PhD ABPP

LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

PRACTICE DESCRIPTION STATEMENT

This practice is owned by Michael D. Eastridge, Ph.D., who is a licensed psychologist. Psychologists are licensed under Chapter 490 in the Florida Statutes, and must abide by the laws governing the practice of psychology in the State of Florida. There are also laws under other sections of the Florida Statutes, such as laws governing Workers' Compensation patients, which govern the manner in which services are provided in some instances. You may ask the psychologist about any laws which apply specifically to you, if you are interested.

Carrie Simmons, MA, LMHC, has a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from USF. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. She has an independent practice. She is not an employee of Dr. Eastridge. Carrie Simmons and Dr. Eastridge share office space and a billing program. Billing is done under Dr. Eastridge's name, and the office forms are printed on his letterhead. All payments should be made to Dr. Eastridge.

Neither Dr. Eastridge nor Ms. Simmons officially supervise the other. However, unless you specifically request otherwise, either of us may seek the other's advice regarding our clients. Each of us will sometimes refer clients to the other, because we are familiar with each other's practice, ethical standards, and we have the opportunity to assist and become familiar with each other's cases. If you are referred by either of us to the other for evaluation, a second opinion, or for conflicts of interests, you are not required to follow through with that referral, and we will offer referrals to other professionals if you request that we do so.

Our business location is: 275 96th Avenue North, Suite 3, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702. Our office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Our hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. We may make other hours by appointment.

In case of emergency, call (727) 579-0080 during our business hours. If emergencies occur after business hours, call any of us at home. All of us have private numbers listed in the Verizon Directories. Dr. Eastridge lives in Tampa, so his home number can be obtained from information for that city. If you call and get an answering machine, leave your name and telephone number and say it is an emergency. If you cannot reach us, call 911, take care of the emergency, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

We consider emergencies to be life threatening situations, such as suicidal thoughts. If you tell us in a session that you are at risk for a life threatening situation, we will typically give you our home number, or make some arrangement for your safety.

Our records must by law, reflect your name, address, identification, medical history, medications, diagnosis, services provided and fees for services. You are responsible for accurate completion of the intake form, for information requested thereon. We take more extensive notes during your first session or two, because we need the background information and a good description of your current problems. Sessions notes are usually minimal, often no more than several sentences. We keep these notes as long as we are required to keep them by law. Your records will be release only with your written consent, unless we are under subpoena to produce them. We will tell you or your attorney if this occurs. If we can find you and you can give consent or attempt to prevent release of records at your expense. Workers' Compensation patients have little confidentiality under the law, and your records are essentially open to any party involved in your lawsuit or Workers' Compensation insurance. You should be aware of this, and you and your own attorney may wish to discuss this prior to entering treatment.

You must pay for copies of records for yourself or for copies you want us to send to other doctors, attorney, or agencies. We release records only for accounts that are paid in full. We do not release reports of psychological testing if the account is not paid in full. It should be understood that we will discuss test results with you, but will not write narrative reports unless it is agreed in advance that we will bill for that service, and then the report will not be released unless we are paid for that report.

You may obtain your records via written request, if the account is paid in full, and when you pay the copying fee of \$1.00 per page. You must allow at least 14 business days for records to be copied. We cannot drop our usual business to copy records on a "spur of the moment" request. If Dr Eastridge feels that reading your records will be distressful for you, he will prepare a summary of the records for you instead (as allowed under Floirda law). In the case of couple or family treatment, records will be available only as long as the family is intact. If divorce, separation, or other adversarial situations occur, full records will not be release without consent of all parties or subpoena. We do not want someone who is angry with you to have your records, even if you were in treatment with that person.

If Dr. Eastridge is required to go to court, deposition, or other legal testimony, report, or statement regarding you, you will be charged our usual fee of \$450.00 per hour for preparation of time.

E-mail: Dr. Eastridge accepts e-mail of a personal nature, such as comments on how you are doing, interesting web sites, etc. We **do not** use e-mail for therapy. We **do not** check e-mail on a daily basis. We **cannot guarantee confidentiality of e-mail**. The e-mail address is provided solely for you to be able to send **non-emergency** information about yourself to Dr. Eastridge, or Carrie Simmons.

By entering into services with Dr. Eastridge's office, you agree to these terms. Otherwise, please seek service elsewhere.

Patient/Client

Date

Minor Parent/Guardian