

Client Confidentiality

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If you have questions about this notice, you may contact your psychotherapist at the number s/he will provide you, or discuss this with him/her in one of your sessions.

The privacy of the information you share with your psychotherapist is very important to the success of your therapy. A psychotherapist is committed to protecting this information so that you can benefit from a safe relationship in which to accomplish your goals. Your psychotherapist is committed to not disclosing your information to others unless you authorize him/her to do so, or unless s/he is required by law to do so.

A new federal law commonly known as HIPAA requires that health providers who transmit client information via computers take certain steps to inform their clients about how they may use information that is gathered in order to provide services to their clients. Your psychotherapist is adopting the "Privacy Practices" required under HIPAA.

To implement these privacy practices, your psychotherapist is providing you with the attached Notice of Privacy Practices, and is requesting that you sign the provided written acknowledgement that you have received a copy of this notice. The notice describes how your psychotherapist may use and disclose your protected information in the course of providing his/her services. The notice also describes your rights regarding this information and a brief description of how you may exercise these rights.

Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to it. Please review carefully.

1. Your medical records are used to provide treatment, bill and receive payments, and conduct healthcare operations. Examples of these activities include but not limited to review of treatment records to ensure appropriate care, electronic or mail delivery of billing for treatment to you or other authorized payers, appointment reminder telephone calls, and records review to ensure completeness and quality of care. Use and disclosure of medical records is limited to the internal used outlined above except required by law or authorized by the patient or legal

2. Federal and State laws require abuse, neglect, domestic violence and threats to be reported to social services or other protective agencies. If such reports are made they will be disclosed to you or your legal representative unless disclosure increases risk of further
3. Disclosed information will be limited to the minimum necessary. You may request an account for any uses or disclosures other than those described in Sections 1 and Sections 2.
4. You, or your legal representative, may request your records to be disclosed to yourself or any other entity. Your request must be made in writing, clearly identify the person authorized to request the release, specify the information you want disclosed, the name and address of the entity you want the information released to, purpose and the expiration date of the authorization. Any authorization provided may be revoked in writing at anytime. Psychotherapy notes are part of your medical records. We have 30 days to respond to a disclosure request and 60 days if the records is stored off site.
5. You may request corrections to your records.
6. A request for disclosure may be denied under the following circumstances: disclosure would likely endanger the life or physical safety of you or another person, requested information references other persons, except another healthcare provider, or if released to a legal representative would likely result in harm.
7. If a request for disclosure is denied for reasons outlined in Section 6, you or your legal representative may request review of the denial. A review will be conducted by another licensed healthcare provider appointed by the original reviewer, who was not involved in the original decision to deny access. A review will be concluded within 30 days.
8. You may request that we restrict uses and disclosures outlined in Section 1. However, we are not required to agree to the restrictions. If an agreement is made to restrict use or disclosure, we will be bound by such restriction until revoked by you or your legal representative orally or in writing except when disclosure is required by law or in an emergency. We may also revoke such restrictions but information gathered while required by law or in an emergency. We may also revoke such restrictions but information gathered while the restriction was in place will remain restricted by such an agreement.
9. If you wish to complain about privacy related issues you may contact the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC, 20201. In any case there will not be any retaliation against you or your legal representative for filing a complaint.

10. This agreement may be modified or amended as required by law or in the course of health care operations.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS PRIVACY NOTICE AND MY RIGHTS CONCERNING USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH CARE INFORMATION.

_____	_____
Individual or Legal Representative (please print)	Date

_____	_____
Signature of Individual or Legal Representative	Date