



## **WELCOME**

This packet of information was created to help your clinician gain helpful information about you and your child, as well as provide you with information about their practice. Please fill out the information as thoroughly as you can. If you have any questions about the paperwork, please inquire with your clinician.

- Your clinician is Bonnie Murphy, MA, LPCC. Ms. Murphy will be working with you to help with the issues that brought you to therapy.
- Ms. Murphy is an independent contract worker for Santa Fe Psychology. This means that she is solely responsible for her practice.
- If you have any questions about Ms. Murphy's practices, or if you have any concerns, please handle these issues directly with her. She will be happy to address any questions, comments, or concerns you have.
- Ms. Murphy looks forward to your work together.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out and sign the following information.



## CHILD/ADOLESCENT INITIAL INFORMATION

Please fill out this form as completely as you can. All information is confidential.

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

**Birth Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:**  Male  Female  Other

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**Child's Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child's E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Relationship) (Phone Number)

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Education Accommodations:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home) (Work) (Cell)

**Father's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*I authorize communication with the billing department via texting and e-mail. I also authorize texting and email communications between me and/or my child and my therapist (initial): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payment Responsibility:**

- Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member/Subscriber #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Date of Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_
- Self-Pay
- Bill to Third Party: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**

**Physician:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Address) (Phone)

**Please list any health problems your child currently has:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list any health problems your child has had in the past, including operations:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have any allergies?**  Yes  No

**If so, what:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has your child had previous therapy?**  Yes  No

**If yes, when & with whom:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your child presently seeing another therapist?**  Yes  No

**If yes, name of therapist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your child presently taking any medications?**  Yes  No

**If yes, what:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For what conditions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prescribed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Length of time of medications:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has your child ever attempted or talked about suicide:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child use drugs or alcohol to your knowledge:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY BACKGROUND**

**Ethnicity:**

- White/Caucasian     Black/African American     Asian     Pacific Islander  
 Hispanic/Latino     Native American     Multi-racial     Other     Unknown

**Parent's Marital Status:**

- Married     Divorced     Single Partnership     Separated     Spouse Deceased

**If divorced, separated, or spouse is deceased, how old was your child:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If divorced, who has legal custody:**  Mother     Father     Joint     Other

**If divorced or separated, what is the time-share arrangement for the child:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step Parent's Names (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Siblings:**

Name

Age

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Religious Preference:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Congregation Attended:** \_\_\_\_\_

**List the blood relations that have any of the following mental health problems:**

Anger: \_\_\_\_\_

Anxiety: \_\_\_\_\_

ADHD: \_\_\_\_\_

Bipolar Disorder: \_\_\_\_\_

Depression: \_\_\_\_\_

Drug/Alcohol Abuse: \_\_\_\_\_

Eating Disorder: \_\_\_\_\_

Intellectual Disabilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Disabilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Unusual Behavior/Thinking: \_\_\_\_\_

Suicide: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCERNS**

Please describe your concerns and what you hope to get from therapy: \_\_\_\_\_

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Eating problems		Sad, tearful	
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Soiling of clothing, bedding		Loss of interest or pleasure in activities	
Wetting of clothing, bedding		Feeling worthless, guilty	
Sleep problems		Suicidal thoughts	
Bad dreams, nightmares		Suicidal behavior	
Sleepwalking		Self-harm	
Under active		Mood swings	
Overactive		Panic attacks	
Speech problems		Afraid	
Vocal tics		Worries	
Selectively mute		Separation anxiety	
Stuttering		Aggressive	
Hair pulling		Anger	
Motor tics		Irritable	
Odd, erratic, disorganized behavior		Argues	
Compulsive, repetitive behavior		Defiant	
Vague physical complaints		Drop in grades	
Pain		Behavior problems at school	
Preoccupied with being sick		Problems with other children	
Fakes being sick		Problems with teachers	
Body image problems		Relationship problems with parents	
Sexual problems		Drug use	
Gender confusion		Alcohol use	
Hears things that others do not		Breaks rules	
Sees things that other do not		Stealing	
Odd beliefs		Property destruction	
Obsessive thoughts		Fire starting	
Memory problems		Gambling	
Easily distracted		Cursing	
Impulsive		Lying	



Santa Fe Psychology, LLC

## DEVELOPMENTAL FORM

Was child was adopted	Yes	No
If adopted, at what age		
If adopted, with any siblings (please list their ages)		

### **During pregnancy, the child's mother experienced**

Severe stress	Yes	No
Mental health problems	Yes	No
Physical illness	Yes	No
Physical injury	Yes	No
Prescription medication use	Yes	No
Caffeine use	Yes	No
Nicotine use	Yes	No
Alcohol use	Yes	No
Drug use	Yes	No

### **During labor and delivery**

There were signs of fetal distress during pregnancy	Yes	No
The child was carried to full term	Yes	No
There were signs of fetal distress during labor or delivery	Yes	No
There were complications during delivery	Yes	No
Number of hours from initial labor pains to birth		
Child's birth weight		
Mother's age when child was born		

### **Immediately after birth and over the next few days, the child**

Had trouble breathing	Yes	No
Had an infection	Yes	No
Had seizures	Yes	No
Was given medications	Yes	No
Was found to have a congenital birth defect	Yes	No
Was in the hospital for several days	Yes	No

### **At any time during the first 12 months, was the child**

Difficult to feed	Yes	No
Difficult to get to sleep	Yes	No
Colicky	Yes	No
Difficult to put on a schedule	Yes	No
Alert	Yes	No

Cheerful	Yes	No
Affectionate	Yes	No
Sociable	Yes	No
Easy to comfort	Yes	No
Difficult to keep busy	Yes	No
Very active	Yes	No
Very stubborn	Yes	No

**At what age did the child**

Sit without help		
Crawl		
Walk without help		
Talk with one or two words		
Talk in sentences of several words		
Start and finish learning to use the toilet for urination		
Start and finish learning to use the toilet for defecation		
The overall toilet training process could be described as		
Since mastery of the toilet, has child wet or soiled the bed or clothing	Yes	No
Since mastery of the toilet, has child played with or smeared feces	Yes	No

**At about 1 year of age, how did the child typically respond to separations from the primary care-taker**

Separated easily with no distress	Yes	No
Was hesitant and somewhat clingy but separated without obvious distress	Yes	No
Was somewhat resistant and clingy, even tearful, but easily consoled	Yes	No
Was very resistant, clingy, and upset and not easily consoled	Yes	No
Behaved in odd, unusual, inconsistent ways	Yes	No

**At about 1 year of age, how did the child typically respond to reunions with the primary care-taker**

Approached the care-giver in an obviously positive manner	Yes	No
Actively avoided the care-giver	Yes	No
Unsure of whether to approach or avoid the care-giver	Yes	No
Behaved in odd, unusual, inconsistent ways	Yes	No

**Did the child have any separation or reunion problems at the following times**

When first starting day care or preschool	Yes	No
When first starting kindergarten	Yes	No
When first starting 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	Yes	No

**Speaking generally about the child's personality**

In response to a new situation, the child typically	Approaches		Avoids
The child typically prefers	The company of others		Solitude
Unsure of whether to approach or avoid the care-giver	Low	Normal	High
Behaved in odd, unusual, inconsistent ways	Yes		No

**Has the child experienced**

More than one daycare or preschool setting	Yes	No
If yes, how many daycare or preschool settings		
Long-term separations from a family member	Yes	No
Death of a family member	Yes	No
Neglect	Yes	No
Verbal abuse	Yes	No
Physical abuse	Yes	No
Sexual abuse	Yes	No
A serious accident	Yes	No
Any other traumatic experience, if so what	Yes	No
Has CPS ever opened a case on your family, if so when and why	Yes	No

**Has the child witnessed**

Domestic violence	Yes	No
Criminal activity	Yes	No
A serious accident	Yes	No
Any other traumatic event	Yes	No
If so, what		

**In school, has the child**

Had learning problems	Yes	No
Received special education services	Yes	No
Refused to go to school	Yes	No
Had problems following the teacher's directions	Yes	No
Had problems getting along with the other students	Yes	No
Been held back or retained	Yes	No

**Has the child had any of the following health problems**

Serious illness	Never	Past	Present
Serious injury	Never	Past	Present
Hospitalization	Never	Past	Present

Surgery	Never	Past	Present
Head injury with loss of consciousness	Never	Past	Present
Asthma	Never	Past	Present
Allergies	Never	Past	Present
Diabetes	Never	Past	Present
Epilepsy	Never	Past	Present
Seizures	Never	Past	Present
Heart problems	Never	Past	Present
High Fevers	Never	Past	Present
Lead poisoning	Never	Past	Present
Speech or language problems	Never	Past	Present
Chronic ear infections	Never	Past	Present
Hearing difficulties	Never	Past	Present
Vision problems	Never	Past	Present
Fine motor problems	Never	Past	Present
Gross motor problems	Never	Past	Present
Appetite problems	Never	Past	Present
Sleep problems	Never	Past	Present
Medication induced problem	Never	Past	Present
Alcohol induced problem	Never	Past	Present
Drug induced problem	Never	Past	Present
Other medical problems			
Additional comments			



**NEW MEXICO NOTICE FORM  
NOTICE OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOUR**

# HEALTH INFORMATION

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

## I. Uses and Disclosures for Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations

Your clinician may use or disclose your protected health information (PHI), for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes with your consent. To help clarify these terms, here are some definitions:

- “PHI” refers to information in your health record that could identify you.
- “Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations”
  - Treatment is when your clinician provides, coordinates or manages your health care and other services related to your health care. An example of treatment would be when he/she consults with another health care provider, such as your family physician or another psychologist.
  - Payment is when your clinician obtains reimbursement for your healthcare. Examples of payment are when he/she discloses your PHI to your health insurer to obtain reimbursement for your health care or to determine eligibility or coverage.
  - Health Care Operations are activities that relate to the performance and operation of your clinician’s practice. Examples of health care operations are quality assessment and improvement activities, business-related matters such as audits and administrative services, and case management and care coordination.
- “Use” applies only to activities within your clinician’s office such as sharing, employing, applying, utilizing, examining, and analyzing information that identifies you.
- “Disclosure” applies to activities outside of your clinician’s office, such as releasing, transferring, or providing access to information about you to other parties.

## II. Uses and Disclosures Requiring Authorization

Your clinician may use or disclose PHI for purposes outside of treatment, payment, and health care operations when your appropriate authorization is obtained. An “authorization” is written permission above and beyond the general consent that permits only specific disclosures. In those instances when your clinician is asked for information for purposes outside of treatment, payment and health care operations, he/she will obtain an authorization from you before releasing this information. Your clinician will also need to obtain an authorization before releasing your psychotherapy notes. “Psychotherapy notes” are notes he/she has made about your conversation during a private, group, joint, or family counseling session, which have been kept separate from the rest of your psychological record. These notes are given a greater degree of protection than PHI.

You may revoke all such authorizations (of PHI or psychotherapy notes) at any time, provided each revocation is in writing. You may not revoke an authorization to the extent that (1) your clinician has relied on that authorization; or (2) if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage, and the law provides the insurer the right to contest the claim under the policy.

## III. Uses and Disclosures with Neither Consent nor Authorization

Your clinician may use or disclose PHI without your consent or authorization in the following circumstances:

- **Child Abuse:** In certain circumstances, he/she is required to report child abuse in a variety of forms, including neglect, to (1) a local law enforcement agency; (2) the office of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services in the county where the child resides; or (3) tribal law enforcement or social services agencies for any Indian child residing in Indian country.
- **Adult and Domestic Abuse:** If he/she has reasonable cause to believe that an incapacitated adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, they must immediately report that information to the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services.
- **Health Oversight:** If the New Mexico Board of Psychology is conducting an investigation, he/she is required to disclose your mental health records upon receipt of a subpoena from the Board.
- **Judicial or Administrative Proceedings:** If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information about your diagnosis and treatment and the records thereof, such information is privileged under state law, and he/she may not release information without written authorization from you or your personal or legally-appointed representative, or a court order. The privilege does not apply when you are being evaluated for a third party or where the evaluation is court-ordered. You will be informed in advance if this is the case.
- **Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** When he/she judges that a disclosure of confidential information is necessary to protect against a substantial and imminent risk that you will inflict serious harm on yourself or another person, he/she has a duty to report this information to the appropriate people who would address such a risk (i.e. the police or the potential victim).
- **Worker's Compensation:** When a claim is filed, he/she is required by law to release those records that are directly related to any injuries or disabilities claimed by you (for which you are receiving benefits from your employer) to you, your employer, your employer's insurer, a peer review organization or the health care selection board.

#### IV. Patient's Rights and Therapist's Duties Patient's Rights:

- **Right to Request Restrictions --** You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of protected health information about you. However, your clinician is not required to agree to a restriction you request.
- **Right to Receive Confidential Communications by Alternative Means and at Alternative Locations –** You have the right to request and receive confidential communications of PHI by alternative means and at alternative locations. (For example, you may not want a family member to know that you are being seen by your clinician. Upon your request, he/she will send your bills to another address.)
- **Right to Inspect and Copy –** You have the right to inspect or obtain a copy (or both) of PHI in your clinician's mental health and billing records used to make decisions about you for as long as the PHI is maintained in the record. He/she may deny your access to PHI under certain circumstances, but in some cases, you may have this decision reviewed. On your request, he/she will discuss with you the details of the request and denial process.
- **Right to Amend –** You have the right to request an amendment of PHI for as long as the PHI is maintained in the record. Your clinician may deny your request. On your request, he/she will discuss with you the details of the amendment process.
- **Right to an Accounting –** You generally have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of PHI for which you have neither provided consent nor authorization (as described in Section III of



Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), a federal law that provides privacy protections and patient rights with regard to the use and disclosure of your Protected Health Information (PHI). HIPAA requires that your clinician provide you with a Notice of Privacy Practices (the Notice) for use and disclosure of PHI for treatment, payment and health care operations. The Notice, which is attached to this Agreement, explains HIPAA and its application to your personal health information in greater detail. The law requires that your clinician obtain your signature acknowledging that you have been provided this information. Although these documents are long and sometimes complex, it is very important that you read them carefully, and we can discuss any questions you may have. When you sign this document, it will also represent an agreement between us. You may revoke this Agreement in writing at any time. That revocation will be binding unless your clinician has taken action in reliance on it; if there are obligations imposed on him/her by your health insurer in order to process or substantiate claims made under your policy; or if you have not satisfied any financial obligations you have incurred.

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

Psychotherapy is not easily described in general statements. It varies depending on the personalities of the clinician and patient, and the particular problems you are experiencing. There are many different methods your clinician may use to deal with the problems that you hope to address. Psychotherapy is not like a medical doctor visit. It calls for a very active effort on your part. Psychotherapy can have benefits and risks. Since therapy often involves discussing difficult aspects of your life, you may experience uncomfortable feelings. On the other hand, psychotherapy has also been shown to have many benefits. Therapy often leads to better relationships, solutions to specific problems, and significant reductions in feelings of distress. But there are no guarantees of what you will experience. Our first few sessions will involve an evaluation of your needs. By the end of the evaluation, your clinician will be able to offer you some first impressions of what the work will include and a treatment plan to follow, if you decide to continue with therapy. You should evaluate this information along with your own opinions of whether you feel comfortable working with him/her. Therapy involves a commitment of time, money, and energy, so you should be very careful about the clinician you select. If you have questions about your clinician's procedures, you should discuss them whenever they arise. If your doubts persist, he/she will help you set up a meeting with another mental health professional for a second opinion, if you wish.

### **MEETINGS**

Your clinician normally conducts an assessment that will last from 2 to 6 sessions. During this time, you and your clinician can both decide if your clinician is the best person to provide the services you need in order to meet your treatment needs. If psychotherapy is begun, therapy will generally schedule one 55-minute session per week at a time agreed upon, although some sessions may be longer or more frequent.

### **PROFESSIONAL FEES**

The fee for professional services with your clinician is \$100.00, including counseling appointments, report writing, telephone conversations, consulting with other professionals with your permission, preparation of records or treatment summaries, and the time spent performing any other service you may request. If you become involved in legal proceedings that require your clinician's participation, you will be expected to pay for that professional time, including preparation and transportation time. Your clinician charges \$300.00 per hour for attendance at any legal proceeding.

Once an appointment is scheduled, you will be expected to pay for it unless you provide 24 hours advance notice of cancellation. Insurance companies do not provide reimbursement for cancelled sessions.

### **CONTACTING YOUR CLINICIAN**

Due to his/her work schedule, your clinician may not be immediately available by telephone. He/she will make every effort to return your call on the same day you make it, with the exception of weekends and

holidays. If you are difficult to reach, please inform him/her of some times when you will be available. If you are unable to reach him/her and feel that you can't wait for a return call, contact the Santa Fe Crisis line at 505-820-6333, call your family physician, or the nearest emergency room and ask for the clinician on call. If your clinician is unavailable for an extended time, he/she may provide you with the name of a colleague to contact, if necessary.

### **LIMITS ON CONFIDENTIALITY**

The law protects the privacy of all communications between a patient and a mental health professional. In most situations, your clinician can only release information about your treatment to others if you sign an Authorization form that meets certain legal requirements. There are other situations that require only that you provide written, advance consent. Your signature on this Agreement provides consent for those activities, as follows:

- Your clinician may occasionally find it helpful to consult other health and mental health professionals. During a consultation, he/she makes every effort to avoid revealing the identity of our patients. The other professionals are also legally bound to keep the information confidential. If you don't object, he/she will not tell you about these consultations unless they feel that it is important to your work together. Your clinician will note all consultations in your chart.
- You should be aware that your clinician practices with other mental health professionals and employs administrative staff. In most cases, he/she may need to share protected information with these individuals for clinical or administrative purposes, such as scheduling, billing and quality assurance. All of the mental health professionals are bound by the same rules of confidentiality. All staff members have received special training on how to protect your privacy and have sworn not to release any information outside of the practice without the permission of a professional staff member.
- Your clinician may also have contracts with business associates, such as bookkeepers and accountants. As required by HIPAA, he/she has formal business associate contracts with these businesses in which they promise to maintain the confidentiality of this data except as specifically allowed in the contract or otherwise required by law. If you wish, he/she can provide you with the names of these organizations and/or a blank copy of this contract.
- Disclosures required by health insurers or to collect overdue fees are discussed elsewhere in this Agreement.

### **There are some situations in which your clinician is permitted or required to disclose information without either your consent or Authorization:**

- If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information concerning your diagnosis and treatment, such information is protected by the therapist-patient privilege law. Your clinician cannot provide any information without your (or your personal or legally-appointed representative's) written authorization, or a court order. If you are involved in or contemplating litigation, you should consult with your attorney to determine whether a court would be likely to order him/her to disclose information.
- If a government agency is requesting the information for health oversight activities, your clinician may be required to provide it for them.
- If a patient files a complaint or lawsuit against your clinician may disclose relevant information regarding that patient in order to defend himself/herself.

There are some situations in which your clinician is legally obligated to take action. When he/she determines it is necessary to attempt to protect a patient or others from harm, he/she may have to reveal some information about a patient's treatment. These situations are uncommon in your clinician's practice.

- If your clinician knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child under 18 is an abused or a neglected child, the law requires that he/she immediately report the matter to an appropriate governmental agency, usually the Child, Youth and Family Department in the county where the child resides. Once such a report is filed, he/she may be required to provide additional information.
- If your clinician has reasonable cause to believe that an incapacitated adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, he/she must immediately report that information to Adult Protective Services. Once such a report is filed, he/she may be required to provide additional information.
- If your clinician believes that a patient presents a substantial and imminent risk of serious harm to another, he/she may be required to take protective actions. These actions may include notifying the potential victim, contacting the police, or seeking hospitalization for the patient.
- If a patient threatens a substantial risk or serious harm to himself/herself, your clinician may be obligated to seek hospitalization for him/her, or to contact family members or others who can help provide protection

If such a situation arises, your clinician will make every effort to fully discuss it with you before taking any action and he/she will limit their disclosure to what is necessary.

While this written summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, it is important that you discuss any questions or concerns that you may have now or in the future with your clinician. The laws governing confidentiality can be complex, and we are not attorneys. In situations where specific advice is required, formal legal advice may be needed.

### **PROFESSIONAL RECORDS**

The laws and standards of our profession require that your clinician keep Protected Health Information (PHI) about you in your Clinical Record. Except in unusual circumstances that involve danger to yourself and/or others or where information has been supplied to him/her confidentially by others, you may examine and/or receive a copy of your Clinical Record, if you request it in writing. Because these are professional records, they can be misinterpreted and/or upsetting to untrained readers. For this reason, your clinician recommends that you initially review them in the presence of him/her, or have them forwarded to another mental health professional so you can discuss the contents. In most circumstances, your clinician charges a copying fee of \$.25 per page (and for certain other expenses). If your clinician refuses your request for access to your records, you have a right of review, which he/she will discuss with you upon request.

### **PATIENT RIGHTS**

HIPAA provides you with several rights with regard to your Clinical Records and disclosures of protected health information. These rights include requesting that your clinician amend your record; requesting restrictions on what information from your Clinical Record is disclosed to others; requesting an accounting of most disclosures of protected health information that you have neither consented to nor authorized; determining the location to which protected information disclosures are sent; having any complaints you make about policies and procedures recorded in your records; and the right to a paper copy of this Agreement, the attached Notice form, and your clinician's privacy policies and procedures. Your clinician will be happy to discuss any of these rights with you.

### **BILLING AND PAYMENTS**

You will be expected to pay for each session at the time it is held, unless your clinician agrees otherwise or unless you have insurance coverage that requires another arrangement. Payment schedules for other professional services will be agreed to when they are requested. In circumstances of unusual financial hardship, your clinician may be willing to negotiate a fee adjustment or payment installment plan. For returned checks a \$4.00 insufficient charge will be billed. If your account has not been paid for more than 120 days and arrangements for payment have not been agreed upon, your clinician has the option of using legal means to secure the payment. This may involve hiring a collection agency or going through small claims court which will require the disclosure of otherwise confidential information. In most collection situations, the only information your clinician releases regarding a patient's treatment is his/her name, the nature of services provided, and the amount due. If such legal action is necessary, its costs will be included in the claim.

## **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**

In order for us to set realistic treatment goals and priorities, it is important to evaluate what resources you have available to pay for your treatment. If you have a health insurance policy, it will usually provide some coverage for mental health treatment. Your clinician will fill out forms and provide you with whatever assistance we can in helping you receive the benefits to which you are entitled; however, you (not your insurance company) are responsible for full payment of fees. It is very important that you find out exactly what mental health services your insurance policy covers. You should carefully read the section in your insurance coverage booklet that describes mental health services. If you have questions about the coverage, call your plan administrator. Your clinician will provide you with whatever information he/she can based on his/her experience and will be happy to help you in understanding the information you receive from your insurance company. If it is necessary to clear confusion, your clinician is willing to call the company on your behalf.

Due to the rising costs of health care, insurance benefits have increasingly become more complex. It is sometimes difficult to determine exactly how much mental health coverage is available. "Managed Health Care" plans such as HMOs and PPOs often require authorization before they provide reimbursement for mental health services. These plans are often limited to short-term treatment approaches designed to work out specific problems that interfere with a person's usual level of functioning. It may be necessary to seek approval for more therapy after a certain number of sessions. While much can be accomplished in short-term therapy, some patients feel they need more services after insurance benefits end. You and your clinician may discuss the options you have under such circumstances.

You should also be aware that your contract with your health insurance company requires that your clinician provide it with information relevant to the services that are provided to you. Your clinician is required to provide a clinical diagnosis. Sometimes your clinician is required to provide additional clinical information such as treatment plans or summaries, or copies of your entire Clinical Record. In such situations, your clinician will make every effort to release only the minimum information about you that is necessary for the purpose requested. This information will become part of the insurance company files and will probably be stored in a computer. Though all insurance companies claim to keep such information confidential, your clinician has no control over what they do with it once it is in their hands. Your clinician will provide you with a copy of any report he/she submits, if you request it. By signing this Agreement, you agree that your clinician can provide requested information to your insurance carrier.

**"I hereby authorize the release of medical information to my insurance company. If insurance claims are filed through this office, I authorize medical benefits for those services to be paid to this office."**

Once your clinician has all of the information about your insurance coverage, he/she will discuss what we can expect to accomplish with the benefits that are available and what will happen if they run out before



- Preparing documents such as letters and reports to parents or other professionals.
- Reviewing legal, educational, or past treatment records.
- Other non-routine services. To the extent reasonably possible, these individualized tasks will be identified ahead of time and reviewed prior to carrying out and billing for them.

Because these services require professional time, there is a fee for which you will be charged. Insurance typically does not cover these costs so you will be personally responsible for payment. Billing will be based on 15 minute units of time and prorated based on your clinician's hourly fee of \$100.00 (15 minutes would cost \$25.00; 30 minutes, \$50.00; etc.). If these tasks are performed in preparation for or attendance at legal proceedings, your clinician's hourly fee is \$300.

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Guardian Signature

Date



## **MISSED APPOINTMENTS AND LATE CANCELLATION POLICY**

- I understand that if I miss a scheduled appointment, or cancel less than 24 hours before the appointment, I am responsible for paying the cost of the appointment.
  - I understand that if I miss an appointment, or do not cancel with 24 hour notice, which involves another party with whom I am sharing the cost, I am responsible for the total cost of the appointment.
  - I understand that your clinician is not able to bill my insurance for missed appointments and that I may be charged for the cost of that appointment.
  - The standard fee for a missed session is \$75 an hour unless otherwise agreed upon by your clinician.
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Guardian Signature

Date