



Trinity Counseling and Consulting Services

Malaina F. Hickey, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

INFORMED CONSENT ADDENDUM FOR TELETHERAPY

This is to be used in conjunction with, but does not replace, the Informed Consent document that is required of all clients prior to starting therapy services.

What is Teletherapy?

Teletherapy includes the practice of diagnosis, treatment, education, goal setting, accountability, referral to resources, problem solving, skills training, and help with decision making through the use of internet-based videoconferencing. Telehealth psychotherapy may include psychological health care delivery, consultation, coaching, and/or counseling. Telehealth psychotherapy will occur primarily through interactive audio, video, and telephone communications.

The risks involved with Telehealth include the potential release of private information due to the complexities and abnormalities involved with the Internet. Viruses, Trojans, and other involuntary intrusions have the ability to grab and released information you may desire to keep private. Furthermore, there is the risk of being overheard by anyone near you if you do not place yourself in a private area and open to other's intrusion. The advantages are you being treated from any location at any time. It is YOUR responsibility to create an environment on your end of the Telemedicine transmission that is not subject to unexpected or unauthorized intrusion of your personal information. It is MY responsibility for me, the therapist, to do the same.

Expectations of client during each session

1. Minimum bandwidth connection of 384 kb or higher.
2. Minimum resolution of 640x360 at 30 frames per second.
3. Operational web camera (HD 1080p is recommended).
4. Proper lighting and seating to ensure a clear image of each party's face.
5. Only agreed upon participants will be present. The presence of any individuals unapproved by both parties and not part of the treatment plan will be cause for termination of the session.
6. The client must disclose the physical address of their location at the start of the session. Unknown locations will be cause for termination of the session.
7. Only use a WiFi network that is secure via password protection, no public WiFi!
8. The client shall also provide a phone number where they can be reached in the event of service disruption.

Response to technical difficulties

Should technical difficulties cause session disruption, Malaina F. Hickey, LCSW will contact the client via preferred telephone contact. If the technical difficulties can be resolved quickly, the session will resume and the client will not experience a shortened session length. If the technical issues cannot be resolved in a timely manner, the session will be rescheduled for a time when functionality is restored. The client will be contacted by telephone to develop a plan for continuation of the session.

Client Initials _____

4410 West Vickery Blvd
Suite 204
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Phone: (682) 300-4158
Fax: (214) 699-4646
Email: mhickey@trinityccservices.com
Website: www.trinityccservices.com



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While Teletherapy is a great way to get help with many of life's problems, overwhelming or potentially dangerous challenges are best met with face-to-face professional support. You understand that our Teletherapy is neither a universal substitute, nor the same as, face-to-face psychotherapy treatment. You accept the distinctions made using Teletherapy vs. face-to-face psychotherapy. In particular, you accept that Teletherapy does not provide emergency services. There are exceptions to client confidentiality policies that exist for regular therapy; these also apply to Telepsychology services. If you need more information on such exceptions, please view your informed consent and information page.

Teletherapy delivery by Malaina F. Hickey, LCSW may occur only with current residents of Texas. The current laws that protect privacy and confidentiality also apply to teletherapy. Any exceptions to confidentiality are described in the Informed Consent document.

At this time, I use GoTo Meeting, Doxy.me, and VSee as my teletherapy platforms. All are HIPAA compliant platforms.

All existing laws regarding client access to mental health information and copies of mental health records apply.

No permanent video or voice recordings are kept from teletherapy sessions. Clients may not record or store videoconference sessions or face-to-face sessions.

You are responsible for information security on your computer. If you decide to keep copies of our emails or communication on your computer, it's up to you to keep that information secure. Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee the security of our emails as they travel between our computers but Skype is encrypted, so it is confidential. It is possible, though unlikely, to intercept emails in transit. If you are concerned about that possibility, please consider the option to encrypt our emails. Even if someone were to intercept an encrypted e-mail, they would not be able to read the encoded message.

By signing this agreement, it is understood that you agree that no one else will be present with you during the session and that you will not record the session in any way.

I understand that my insurance may not cover teletherapy. I understand that should services not be covered or Malaina F. Hickey, LCSW not be in-network with my insurance, that I have the right to request an Out-Of-Network Statement that I can submit to my insurance company to potentially be reimbursed for expenses. I understand I am responsible for payment should services not be covered.

There are no other explicit or implied commitments in our Teletherapy relationship.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Patient Printed Name: _____

Therapist Signature: _____ Date: _____