



## **HIPAA Compliance / Informed Consent**

### **HIPAA Compliance**

Our Notice of Privacy Practices provides information about how we may use or disclose protected health information.

The notice contains a patient's rights section describing your rights under the law. You ascertain that by your signature that you have reviewed our notice before signing this consent.

The terms of the notice may change, if so, you will be notified at your next visit to update your signature/date.

You have the right to restrict how your protected health information is used and disclosed for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. We are not required to agree with this restriction, but if we do, we shall honor this agreement. The HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) law allows for the use of the information for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations.

By signing this form, you consent to our use and disclosure of your protected healthcare information and potentially anonymous usage in a publication. You have the right to revoke this consent in writing, signed by you. However, such a revocation will not be retroactive.

By signing this form, I understand that:

- Protected health information may be disclosed or used for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations.
- The practice reserves the right to change the privacy policy as allowed by law.
- The patient has the right to restrict the use of the information by the practice does not have to agree to those restrictions.
- The patient has the right to revoke this consent in writing at any time and all full disclosures will then cease.
- The practice may condition receipt of treatment upon execution of this consent.

May we phone, email, or send you a text to confirm appointments?                                    YES    NO

May we leave a message on your answering machine at home or on your cell phone?    YES    NO

### **Informed Consent**

Therapy is a relationship between people that works in part because of clearly defined rights and responsibilities held by each person. As a client in psychotherapy, you have certain rights and responsibilities that are important for you to understand. There are also legal limitations to those rights that you should be aware of. I, as your therapist, have corresponding responsibilities to you. These rights and responsibilities are described in the following sections.

Psychotherapy has both benefits and risks. Risks may include experiencing uncomfortable feelings, such as sadness, guilt, anxiety, anger, frustration, loneliness and helplessness, because the process of psychotherapy often requires discussing the unpleasant aspects of your life. However, psychotherapy has been shown to have benefits for individuals who undertake it. Therapy often leads to a significant reduction in feelings of distress, increased satisfaction in interpersonal relationships, greater personal awareness and insight, increased skills for managing stress and resolutions to specific problems. But, there are no guarantees about what will happen. Psychotherapy requires a very active effort on your part. In order to be most successful, you will have to work on things we discuss outside of sessions.

The first two to four sessions will involve a comprehensive evaluation of your needs. By the end of the evaluation, I will be able to offer you some initial impressions of what our work might include. At that point, we will discuss your treatment goals and create an initial treatment plan. You should evaluate this information and make your own assessment about whether you feel comfortable working with me. If you have questions about my procedures, we should discuss them whenever they arise. If your doubts persist, I will be happy to help you set up a meeting with another mental health professional for a second opinion.

This consent was signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

(PRINT NAME PLEASE)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_