



Privacy Policy

Privacy Policy for Management of Personal Information

This document describes the privacy policy of Eliza Kate for the management of clients' personal information. The counselling service provided is bound by the legal requirements of the Australian Privacy Principles set out in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Client information

Client files are held in secure, password-protected computer which is accessible only to the sole trader Eliza Kate (Counsellor). The information on each file is encrypted and includes personal information such as name, address, contact phone numbers, medical history, and other personal information collected as part of providing the counselling service.

How clients' personal information is collected

A client's personal information is collected in a number of ways during counselling consultation with Eliza Kate including when the client provides information directly to Eliza Kate using hardcopy forms, correspondence via email, and when other health practitioners provide personal information to Eliza Kate via referrals, correspondence and medical reports.

Consequence of not providing personal information

If the client does not wish for their personal information to be collected in a way anticipated by this Privacy Policy, Eliza Kate may not be in a position to provide the counselling service to the client. In some circumstances, clients may request to be anonymous or to use a pseudonym, unless it is impracticable for Eliza Kate to deal with the client or if Eliza Kate is required or authorised by law to deal with identified individuals.

Purpose of holding personal information

A client's personal information is gathered and used for the purpose of providing counselling services. The personal information is retained in order to document what happens during sessions, and enables the counsellor to provide a relevant and informed counselling service.

Disclosure of personal information

Clients' personal information will remain confidential except when:

1. it is subpoenaed by a court, or disclosure is otherwise required or authorised by law; or
2. failure to disclose the information would in the reasonable belief of Eliza Kate, place a client
or
3. the client's prior approval has been obtained to
 - a) provide a written report to another agency or professional, e.g., a GP or a lawyer; or



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- b) discuss the material with another person, e.g. a parent, employer, health provider, or third party funder; or
- c) disclose the information in another way; or
- d) disclose to another professional or agency (e.g. your GP) and disclosure of your personal information to that third party is for a purpose which is directly related to the primary purpose for which your personal information was collected.

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A client's personal information is not disclosed to overseas recipients, unless the client consents or such disclosure is otherwise required by law. Clients' personal information will not be used, sold, rented or disclosed for any other purpose.

In the event that unauthorised access, disclosure or loss of a client's personal information occurs Eliza Kate will activate her data breach plan and use all reasonable endeavours to minimise any risk of consequential serious harm.

Requests for access and correction to client information

At any stage clients may request to see and correct the personal information about them kept on file. The counsellor may discuss the contents with them and/or give them a copy, subject to the exceptions in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). If satisfied that personal information is inaccurate, out of date or incomplete, reasonable steps will be taken in the circumstances to ensure that this information is corrected. All requests by clients for access to or correction of personal information held about them should be lodged with Eliza Kate. These requests will be responded to in writing within 21 days, and an appointment will be made if necessary for clarification purposes.

Concerns

If clients have a concern about the management of their personal information, they may inform Eliza Kate. Upon request they can obtain a copy of the Australian Privacy Principles, which describe their rights and how their personal information should be handled.

If clients wish to lodge a formal complaint about the use of, disclosure of, or access to, their personal information, they may do so with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner by phone on 1300 363 992, online at [http:// www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/making-a-privacy-complaint](http://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/making-a-privacy-complaint) or by post to: Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, GPO Box 5218, Sydney,