

## **Aging Care Consultation Services PLLC**

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### **Counselor Disclosure Statement and Policies**

This document tells about my professional qualifications, education and experience, as well as about how my practice works and how you can communicate with me. Washington state law requires all licensed counselors and other mental health professionals to provide this information to all clients before services begin (and before any fees can be charged). If you have any questions, please ask.

**Full Name:** Karin E.E. Taifour, MA LMHC GMHS

**Licensure:** Washington State Licensed Mental Health Counselor, DOH # LH00010799  
Licensed in good standing since 2006  
Specialty Geriatric Mental Health Specialist (DSHS certified)  
Approved Counseling Supervisor (DSHS certified)

**Education:** Certificate in Geriatric Mental Health, University of Washington, 2008.  
Master of Arts in Applied Behavioral Sciences – Systems Counseling,  
Bastyr University / Leadership Institute of Seattle, 2004.  
Master of Arts in Latin American Studies, Georgetown University, 1993.  
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, Oregon State University, 1991.

**Experience:** Over 18 years working in mental health and with older clients and families.  
Assessed over 1400 clients to date, over 100 decisional capacity evaluations.  
Testimony at guardianship proceedings, criminal trials, mental health court.  
Presentations at conferences, trainings, and for community audiences.  
Over 8 years with the county crisis team for older adult mental health.  
Over 10 years supervising clinicians to licensure and specialty certification.  
Two years teaching as adjunct faculty and student clinic supervisor.  
Over 15 years in organizational development and administration with non-profit institutions, corporations, and management consulting firms.

**Professional Activities:** Extensive continuing education, training, and clinical supervision annually.  
Active involvement with the American Mental Health Counselors Association and Washington State Mental Health Counselors Association; Aging Life Care Association; Elder Abuse Council of Seattle / King County; Elder Law Consultation Group; King County Prosecuting Attorney Office's Multi-Disciplinary Team for Elder Abuse; National Association of Health Care Advocacy Consultants; Northwest LGBT Senior Care Providers Network; Senior Care Coalition; South End Senior Coalition; UW Gerontology Professionals Network; and others.

### **Orientation and Treatment Modalities Used:**

The work I provide is consultative in nature, typically over a few days or weeks (although I also work with clients for months and even years, and intermittently as-needed). I have a person-centered focus, meaning the client is the one who has the agenda and makes the decisions regarding our work together. Services include:

- (a) psychosocial-functional-cognitive assessment using various clinically-researched testing tools,
- (b) individual counseling and consultation for seniors and for family/caregivers, and
- (c) family meeting facilitation for care planning, decision making, and conflict resolution.

I typically use a combination of modalities or approaches based on your situation. These may include appreciative inquiry, informational interviewing, solution-focused therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Narrative Therapy, and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy. Evaluations/assessments with cognitive tests are done using clinically researched and validated tools. This process may also include information gathered from family members, caregivers, or other involved parties, as appropriate.

### **Place of Service Options and Policies:**

Most ACCS services are provided in the client's home. This is where people are most comfortable and where I can get the most information and insight about the client's daily life, living situation, and any functional needs. I also provide online video services through a secure, HIPAA-compliant platform.

With the pandemic (COVID-19/coronavirus/SARS-CoV-2), ACCS developed comprehensive policies and procedures for in-person visits. ACCS has comprehensive professional liability and malpractice insurance, and there are no exclusions for COVID-19/coronavirus or communicable diseases.

As a clinician, I am considered Essential Healthcare Personnel, so I am allowed to visit clients in any facility (hospital, hospice, adult family home, assisted living, senior housing). However, before visiting any facility, I coordinate with staff on their protocols and make appropriate arrangements.

### **Service Fees and Payment Policies:**

My fee schedule is attached. I ask that we both respect each other's time and schedule – please let me know at least 24 hours in advance if you need to cancel or change an appointment. If a visit is not cancelled in advance, a minimum charge may apply. Payment is due at time of service or upon receipt of invoice, as agreed upon when scheduled.

Any bills in arrears at the end of the next calendar month (i.e., 30 days after the invoice date) will be charged a late fee of \$ 25.00 or 1.5 % per month, whichever is greater. In the event of default of payment and/or failure to pay, accounts will be sent to collections and the additional collections costs will be added to the debt as allowed by law.

**ACCS does not bill insurance.** Upon request and after payment, you can receive a detailed coded receipt for submission to your insurance or health care flexible spending account. Some insurers, Medicare supplemental plans, or LTC plans *may* provide some reimbursement.

**Contact:**

I check my voicemail and email regularly during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 9-5), but I may not receive your message immediately and therefore may not be able to respond quickly. Please be aware that text messages and emails are not confidential – there are inherent risks and limitations to confidentiality involved in electronic communication.

*Occasionally messages get lost – if you have not heard back from me by the next day, please call me again, because I will never ignore you.*

**Emergencies:**

**Please understand that I do not provide 24-hour services.** If you are experiencing an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1. For a mental health crisis, call or text 9-8-8 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, or the Crisis Line at 206-461-3222 (King County) or 425-258-4357 (Snohomish County), or go to your nearest hospital emergency room.

**Privacy:**

The Notice of Privacy Practices details how your personal health information is handled by ACCS. The consent form outlines your rights and confidentiality, and must be signed by all parties at the start of our work together.

**Ethics:**

I belong to several professional organizations and follow the codes of ethics adopted by these organizations. You can view the AMHCA code of ethics for my licensure online at <http://connections.amhca.org/viewdocument/amhca-code-of-ethics>

**Complaints:**

The State of Washington’s Department of Health licenses health professionals and holds them to a code of professional conduct. A list of unethical/ unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180 can be found on the DOH website: [www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/FileComplaintAboutProviderorFacility/Health-Profes sionsComplaintProcess.aspx#7](http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/FileComplaintAboutProviderorFacility/Health-Profes sionsComplaintProcess.aspx#7)

If you believe I have committed acts of unprofessional conduct, you have a right to contact the Department of Health and report that behavior. There is a process for making a complaint. Contact: Washington State Department of Health, Health Professional Quality Assurance / Counselor Section, PO Box 47869, Olympia, WA 98504, phone 360- 236-4700.

In King County, the Mental Health Ombuds Services Office is available to assist in resolving complaints. You may file a complaint if you feel that any of your rights have been denied or that you have been discriminated against, or if you have other complaints or dissatisfaction with services. Ombuds staff will work with you to find the best solution to your complaint. Call 206-205-5329.