**Online Informed Consent for Teletherapy Mental Health Treatment Services**

**In response to COVID-19**

Teletherapy mental health services occur through interactive videoconferencing with audio communication, and includes the practice of goal setting, accountability, referral to resources, problem solving, skills training, and help with decision-making. Teletherapy mental health services may also include psychological health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, and psychotherapeutic treatment.

Please carefully read through the following statements to be sure that you understand the expectations, possible benefits, risks, and crisis procedures associated with participation in teletherapy mental health services with Annette Reiter. You will be asked to provide your consent to engage in teletherapy mental health services by providing your electronic signature at the end of this form.

To participate in teletherapy mental health services with Annette Reiter, I understand the following:

1. I will need a desktop or laptop computer, or tablet device with a camera for videoconferencing, speakers or headphones, and a good, private and secure internet connection. I will need to be in a private location to ensure my privacy.
2. I have the right to withhold or withdraw consent at any time. If consent is withheld or withdrawn, I may request a referral to a local mental health provider.
3. I understand that Annette Reiter will inform me if teletherapy mental health services are appropriate for me. Receiving teletherapy mental health services may not be appropriate when:
* There has been a recent suicide attempt, psychiatric hospitalization, or psychotic process (e.g., in the last three years);
* Moderate to severe major depression or bipolar disorder syndrome;
* Moderate to severe alcohol or drug abuse;
* Severe eating disorder;
* Repeated acute crises (e.g., occurring once a month or more frequently)
* Annette Reiter determines, based on clinical judgement, that teletherapy mental health services are not an appropriate mode of treatment.
1. There are risks and consequences from receiving teletherapy mental health services, including, but not limited to, the possibility, despite reasonable efforts on the part of the therapist, that the transmission of my personal information could be interrupted by unauthorized persons; and/or the electronic storage of my personal information could be accessed by unauthorized persons.
2. Teletherapy mental health-based services and care may not be as complete as onsite, in-person services. I also understand that if my therapist believes I would be better served by another form of intervention (including onsite, in-person services), I may be referred to a mental health professional who can provide these services in my area.
3. My therapist will initiate each scheduled videoconference through the Doxy.me platform. My therapist will make three attempts to contact me within 10 minutes of the start of our session. If I do not answer the videoconference in three attempts, I understand that I may be charged a no-show fee of $15 and the session will need to be re-scheduled.
4. Certain situations, including emergencies and crises, are inappropriate for video/computer-based psychological therapy services. For my therapist to appropriately monitor and respond to any struggles I may be having, I agree to complete a 20-item questionnaire (the BHM-20) no more than 12 hours prior to each scheduled session with my counselor. The counselor will review the results of the BHM-20 just before the appointment. If my counselor is concerned about me, loses contact with me, or if I fail to show for a scheduled tele-mental health session, I understand that my counselor will attempt to contact me to check on my wellbeing.
5. To receive teletherapy mental health services, I must be physically located in Florida where Annette Reiter is licensed to provide mental health treatment services. Teletherapy mental health services may not be provided if you are out-of-state or in an international locale at the time of your scheduled appointment. Annette Reiter will establish your location at the beginning of every session, and you are strongly recommended to remain in the same location for each session.
6. The laws that protect the confidentiality of your personal information also apply to teletherapy mental health. As such, the information disclosed during the course of sessions is not disclosed to anyone without your written permission. However, Florida law establishes that confidentiality does not apply under the following circumstances:
* You are considered an immediate risk for harming yourself;
* You are considered an immediate risk of harming others;
* Child abuse;
* Abuse of elderly person or persons with disabilities;
* A court order.
1. No personally identifiable images or information from the teletherapy mental health interaction will be made and/or disseminated to anyone without your written consent. Clients are prohibited from recording their teletherapy mental health sessions.

If I show indicators that I may be in real trouble, including a serious risk for self-harm or harm to others, I grant Annette Reiter permission to contact someone to insure my safety. The information given on my initial intake form will be used for office procedure guidelines in these crisis situations.

My signature on the initial intake consent form with Annette Reiter Inc. reflects that I have been informed about the policies and procedures for teletherapy mental health services, and I agree to them.