

INFORMED CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

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Information About Your Therapist

At an appropriate time, your therapist will discuss his/her professional background with you and provide you with information regarding his/her experience, education, special interests, and professional orientation. You are free to ask questions at any time about your therapist's background, experience and professional orientation.

Note: The therapist should indicate his/her licensure status before the patient completes this form. Your therapist is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Information About This Practice

The name of this solo practice is:

Psychotherapy & Biofeedback Stress-Relief Service. This practice is not a corporation.

The individual therapist who operates this practice is:

Karie Klim

Name of Therapist/License: Karie Klim/LMFT **License Number:** MFC 101425

Paying for Services

Participating in psychotherapy can mean a substantial financial investment and may require a significant consideration, commitment as a sense of value for the benefit of the expected outcome.

Fees: My fee is a customary rate and is adjusted from time to time. I will work with you to try to find a fee that fits for both of us. Fees are payable at the time that services are rendered. Please ask your therapist if you wish to discuss a written agreement that specifies an alternative payment procedure. If for some reason you find that you are unable to continue paying for your therapy, you should inform your therapist. Your therapist will help you to consider any options that may be available to you at that time.

Insurance: Although I do not accept insurance coverage other than Beacon/Partnership HealthPlan, many insurers will compensate their members, at least partially, for "out of network" psychotherapy expenses if provided with a statement of services rendered. If you have such a company, I will provide you with regular receipts of payment for services rendered so you may process them appropriately with your insurer. The amount of reimbursement deductible depends on the requirements of your specific insurance plan. You should be aware that insurance plans generally limit coverage to certain diagnosable mental conditions. You should also be aware that you are responsible for verifying and understanding the limits of your insurance coverage. Although

your therapist is happy to assist your efforts to seek insurance reimbursement, we are unable to guarantee whether your insurance will provide payment for the services provided to you. Please discuss any questions or concerns that you may have about this with your therapist.

FSA/HSA: Using a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) or Health Savings Account (HSA) program is one way to save money by spending pre-tax dollars for medical expenses.

Accepted Payment Types & Fees: Check, MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover. A convenience fee of the charge on the credit card will be assessed per transaction—2.75% + .10 on swiped transactions and 3.5 + .15 for manual transactions. This will apply to only payments made by credit card. Karie Klim, LMFT will not profit from any of those fees.

Non-Sufficient Funds Handling Fee: Returned checks will incur a handling fee equivalent to the amount charged by the bank. Karie Klim will not profit from this fee.

Session Length: Individual and conjoint (family) sessions are approximately 50 minutes in length.

Confidentiality

All communications between you and your therapist will be held in strict confidence unless you provide written permission to release information about your treatment. If you participate in marital or family therapy, your therapist will not disclose confidential information about your treatment unless all person(s) who participated in the treatment with you provide their written authorization to release. (In addition, your therapist will not disclose information communicated privately to him or her by one family member, to any other family member without written permission.)

There are exceptions to confidentiality. For example, therapists are required to report instances of suspected child, dependent adult or elder abuse. Therapists may also be required or permitted to break confidentiality when they have determined that a patient presents a serious danger of physical violence to another person or when a patient is dangerous to him or herself.

If you participate in marital or family therapy, your therapist will not disclose confidential information about your treatment unless all person(s) who participated in the treatment with you provide their written authorization to release such information. **However, it is important that you know that your therapist utilizes a “no-secrets” policy when conducting family or marital/couples therapy.** This means that if you participate in family, and/or marital/couples therapy, your therapist is permitted to use information obtained in an individual session that you may have had with him or her, when working with other members of your family.

Please feel free to ask your therapist about his or her “no secrets” policy and how it may apply to you.

Minors and Confidentiality

Communications between therapists and patients who are minors (under the age of 18) are confidential. However, parents and other guardians who provide authorization for their child’s treatment are often involved in their treatment. Consequently, your therapist, in the exercise of his or her professional judgment, may discuss the treatment progress of a minor patient with the parent or caretaker. Patients who are minors and their parents are urged to discuss any questions or concerns that they have on this topic with their therapist.

Appointment Scheduling and Cancellation Policies

Sessions are typically scheduled to occur one time per week at the same time and day if possible. Your therapist may suggest a different amount of therapy depending on the nature and severity of your concerns. Your consistent attendance greatly contributes to a successful outcome. In order to cancel or reschedule an appointment, you are expected to notify your therapist at least 48 hours in advance of your appointment. If you do not provide your therapist with at least 48 hours' notice in advance, you are responsible for payment for the missed session. Please understand that your insurance company will not pay for missed or cancelled sessions.

Therapist Availability/Emergencies

You are welcome to phone your therapist in between sessions. However, as a general rule, it is believed that important issues are better addressed within regularly scheduled sessions.

You may leave a message for your therapist at any time on his/her confidential voicemail. If you wish your therapist to return your call, please be sure to leave your name and phone number(s), along with a brief message concerning the nature of your call. Non-urgent phone calls are returned during the therapist's normal workdays within 24 hours. If you have an urgent need to speak with your therapist, please indicate that fact in your message and follow any instructions that are provided by your therapist's voicemail. In the event of a medical or psychiatric emergency or an emergency involving a threat to your safety or the safety of others, please call 911 to request emergency assistance.

Please be sure to leave your name and phone number(s), along with a brief message concerning the nature of your call.

You should be aware that your therapist is generally available to return phone calls within approximately 24 hours. Your therapist is not able to return phone calls after 9 PM.

Your therapist is not available to return phone calls on Mondays and Saturdays.

If you have an urgent need to speak with your therapist, please indicate that fact in your message and follow any instructions that are provided by your therapist's voicemail message.

In the event of a medical or psychiatric emergency or an emergency involving a threat to your safety or the safety of others, please call 911 to request emergency assistance.

You should also be aware of the following resources that are available in the local community to assist individuals who are in crisis:

- Psychological Emergency Services: (800) 746-8181
- Suicidal Thoughts/Crisis HotLine: (800) 273-8255
- Veteran's Crisis Line: (800) 273-8255, press 1
- Sexual Assault (Verity): (707) 545-7273
- Alcoholics Anonymous: (707) 544-1300
- YWCA Domestic Violence Services: (707) 546-1234
- Women's Emergency Shelter: (707) 546-7115
- Memorial Hospital: (707) 546-3210

- Sutter Hospital: (707) 576-4000

Therapist Communications

Your therapist may need to communicate with you by telephone or other means. Please indicate your preference by checking one of the choices listed below. Please be sure to inform your therapist if you do not wish to be contacted at a particular time or place, or by a particular means.

- My therapist may call me on my home phone. My home phone number is: _____
- My therapist may call me on my cell phone. My cell phone number is: _____
- My therapist may send a text message to my cell phone. My cell phone number is: _____
- My therapist may call me at work. My work phone number is: _____
- My therapist may communicate with me by e-mail. My e-mail address is: _____
- My therapist may send a fax to me. My fax number is: _____
- My therapist may send mail to me at my home address. _____
- My therapist may send mail to me at my work address. _____

Sensitive, clinical information is to be discussed over the phone or in-person as deemed appropriate by the therapist. For appropriate e-mail or text communication therapist will respond to your e-mail or text within 24 hours. Potential risks of using electronic communication may included, but are not limited to; inadvertent sending of an e-mail or text containing confidential information to the wrong recipient, theft or loss of the computer, laptop or mobile device storing confidential information, and interception by an unauthorized third party through an unsecured network. E-mail messages may contain viruses or other defects and it is your responsibility to ensure that it is virus-free. In addition, e-mail or text communication may become part of the clinical record. You may be charged for time the therapist spends reading and responding e-mail or text messages.

About the Therapy Process

It is your therapist's intention to provide services that will assist you in reaching your goals. Based upon the information that you provide to your therapist and the specifics of your situation, your therapist will provide recommendations to you regarding your treatment. We believe that therapists and patients are partners in the therapeutic process. You have the right to agree or disagree with your therapist's recommendations. Your therapist will also periodically provide feedback to you regarding your progress and will invite your participation in the discussion.

Your therapist will work with you to develop an effective treatment plan. Over the course of therapy, your therapist will attempt to evaluate whether the therapy provided is beneficial to you. Your feedback and input is an important part of this process. It is the goal of your therapist to assist you in effectively addressing your problems and concerns. However, due to the varying nature and severity of problems and the individuality of each patient, your therapist is unable to predict the length of your therapy or to guarantee a specific outcome or result.

Termination of Therapy

The length of your treatment and the timing of the eventual termination of your treatment depend on the specifics of your treatment plan and the progress you achieve. It is a good idea to plan for your termination, in collaboration with your therapist. Your therapist will discuss a plan for termination with you as you approach

the completion of your treatment goals.

You may discontinue therapy at any time. If you or your therapist determines that you are not benefiting from treatment, either of you may elect to initiate a discussion of your treatment alternatives. Treatment alternatives may include, among other possibilities, referral, changing your treatment plan, or terminating your therapy.

Your signature indicates that you have read this agreement for services carefully and understand its contents. Please ask your therapist to address any questions or concerns that you have about this information before you sign.

Name of Client _____

Signature _____ Date: _____