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INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP INFORMED CONSENT

Intimate Relationship Service Agreement

This document contains information about Intimate Relationship Therapy and business policies. When the parties sign this document, it represents an agreement between the parties and THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP. Our staff members can discuss any questions the parties have prior to signing or at any time in the future.

Intimate Relationship Therapy

Intimate Relationship therapy begins with an evaluation of the party's relationship, past and present. The clinician will assist the parties in determining if Intimate Relationship Therapy is appropriate prior to developing a treatment plan with the parties. Intimate Relationship Therapy has both benefits and risks. Risks may include further breakdown of the party's relationship, divorce, frustration, loneliness, anxiety, anger with each other, hopelessness because the process often requires discussing difficult dynamics in the relationship. Intimate Relationship Therapy can lead to a significant reduction conflict, increase in insight for healthy relationships, and a tool box for conflict resolution. There are no guarantees of about the outcome; however, Intimate Relationship Therapy has been shown to have great benefits for the parties when they take an active role.

THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP will not provide Intimate Relationship Therapy for any relationship in which the clinician believes in good faith that domestic violence exists in the relationship. The clinician will utilize professional judgement to discontinue therapy and immediately advise the parties to seek services with the local domestic violence shelter for victim services and batterer's services. The primary reason THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP will not engage in Intimate Relationship Therapy with domestic violence present is because abuse is not a relationship problem. The parties must be willing to make concessions and make changes in negative behavior patterns. This is not possible in domestically violent relationships.

THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP will meet with the parties together and will not meet with the parties separately. In order to maintain trust and efficacy of the therapy, all parties will meet together only. If one party is unable to meet, the session will be canceled and rescheduled for another time.

The parties are required to review and sign the Intimate Relationship Confidentiality Agreement and understand the potential limits of confidentiality, including those imposed by THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP's policies and by state law. We understand that information discussed in Intimate Relationship Therapy is for therapeutic purposes and is not intended for use in any legal proceedings involving the parties. We agree not to subpoena THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP nor its staff to testify for or against any party or to provide records in a court action.

The therapeutic focus in Intimate Relationship Therapy is on preserving and enhancing the relationship rather than a focus on individual happiness. At times, remaining together is harmful to one or more of the parties; in these instances THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP will instead focus on facilitating an amicable separation of the individuals in the relationship

Professional Fees

The fees for the initial intake and each subsequent 55 minute session are the same as individual psychotherapy. The business policy is the same as the Client Informed Consent.

Insurance

The business policy regarding insurance is the same as explained in the Client Informed Consent. However, one party of the relationship will selected as 'the client' for billing purposes. The party chosen as 'the client' does not imply that the person has more clinical factors than the other parties. It is strictly for billing purposes.



Confidentiality

The Intimate Relationship Confidentiality Agreement and the Notice of Privacy Practices discusses this in detail.

Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation & Misappropriation of Property

The Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation & Misappropriation of Property policy discusses this in detail. Any Intimate relationship identified as domestically violent will be referred to alternate services and therapy will be immediately discontinued. Confidentiality of the victim will be respected unless otherwise specified by the victim.

Contacting The Mental Health Stop

The full details for contacting THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP are explained in the Client Informed Consent. Additionally, the parties are asked to not contact the clinician for any extended correspondence without all parties being present. Any attempts to communicate with the clinician privately violates the terms of Intimate Relationship Therapy and will not be tolerated.

If any party feels they are in need of domestic violence services for either victims or batterers, please contact the following resources: **New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1.800.799.7233, The Nest 1.866.378.6378, or C.O.P.E. 575.434.3622.**

Acknowledgement

By signing below, the parties indicate that they have reviewed this Intimate Relationship Informed Consent and understand what to expect from Intimate Relationship Therapy, and the business policies of THE MENTAL HEALTH STOP.

Client's Signature

Date

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