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Disclosure Statement & Agreement For Services

Introduction

This document is intended to provide important information to you regarding your treatment. Please read the entire document carefully and be sure to ask your therapist any questions that you may have regarding its contents.

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.

Your therapist is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Her license number is MFC43310.

Fees and Insurance

The fee for service is \$ 200.00 per individual therapy session.

The fee for service is \$ 200.00 per conjoint (marital /family) therapy session.

The fee for service is \$ 110.00 per group therapy session.

Individual Sessions and conjoint (marital /family) sessions are approximately 45 minutes in length. Group Sessions are approximately 90 minutes in length.

Your regular fee will be charged for any additional professional services rendered at your request, such as phone contacts over 5 minutes, consults with other professionals, etc. For any paperwork completed within your session, there is no charge. Preparation of special forms, reports, etc. completed outside of your appointment, the rate will be discussed between patient and therapist prior to billing. Court time will be billed at the rate of \$ 350 per hour.

Fees are payable at the time that services are rendered. Fees are subject to change every six months. Payment can be made in the form of cash, check, or credit card. Please ask your therapist if you wish to discuss a written agreement that specifies an alternative payment procedure.

Please be aware that your therapist does not accept assignment of benefits and does not participate in managed care insurance plans (HMO's and PPO's). You may be able to be reimbursed by your insurance company by asking to use an out of network provider. The amount of reimbursement and the amount of any co-payments or 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. Your therapist will be happy to provide you with a Superbill to provide to your insurance company if you are eligible for reimbursement. You are responsible for the full fee regardless of your insurance

company's reimbursement policies. Please discuss any questions or concerns that you may have about this with your therapist.

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.

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 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.

There are exceptions to confidentiality. For example, therapists are required to report instances of suspected child or elder abuse. Therapists may 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. In addition, a federal law known as The Patriot Act of 2001 requires therapists (and others) in certain circumstances, to provide FBI agents with books, records, papers and documents and other items and prohibits the therapist from disclosing to the patient that the FBI sought or obtained the items under the Act.

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. Your session time has been reserved for you. If you do not keep your appointment, you are responsible for payment for the missed session. If you must cancel an appointment, please notify your therapist at least 48 hours in advance. Sessions cancelled with less than 48 hours notice will be charged the full fee.

Therapist Availability/Emergencies

Telephone consultations between office visits are welcome. However, your therapist will attempt to keep those contacts brief due to our belief 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. Nonurgent phone calls are returned during normal workdays (Monday through Friday) 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 emergency or an emergency involving a threat to your safety or the safety of others, please call 911 to request emergency assistance.

Therapist Communications

Your therapist may need to communicate with you by telephone, email, mail, 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 at my home. My home phone number is: () _____
- My therapist may call me on my cell phone. My cell phone number is: () _____
- My therapist may call me at work. My work phone number is: () _____
- My therapist may send mail to me at my home address.
- My therapist may send mail to me at my work address.
- My therapist may communicate with me by email. My email address is: _____
- My therapist may send a fax to me. My fax number is: () _____

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.

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!

Patient Signature/ Parent if minor

Date: ___/___/___