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INFORMED CONSENT FOR TELEPSYCHOLOGY

We are about to embark upon a new and different way of conducting psychotherapy, and there are some things you need to know before we begin. Please read this carefully, and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will represent an agreement between us.

Benefits and Risks of Telepsychology

Telepsychology refers to providing psychotherapy services remotely using telecommunications technologies, such as video conferencing or telephone. Below are some issues to consider regarding how telepsychology may differ from in person treatment.

- Risks to confidentiality. Because telepsychology sessions take place outside of the therapist's private office, there is potential for other people to overhear sessions if you are not in a private place during the session. On my end, I will take all reasonable precautions to ensure your privacy. Please make sure you find a private place for our sessions where you will not be interrupted or overheard.
- Issues related to technology. Telepsychology requires technical competence on both our parts. Be aware of the possibility that technology may stop working during a session, other people might be able to get access to our private conversation, or stored data could be accessed by unauthorized people or companies.
- Crisis management and intervention. Usually, I will not engage in telepsychology with clients who are currently in a crisis situation requiring high levels of support and intervention. Before engaging in telepsychology, we will develop an emergency response plan to address potential crisis situations that may arise during the course of our telepsychology work.
- Efficacy. Most research shows that telepsychology is about as effective as in-person psychotherapy. However, some therapists believe that something is lost by not being in the same room. For example, there is debate about a therapist's ability to fully understand non-verbal information when working remotely.

Electronic Communications

We will decide together which kind of telepsychology service to use. You may need certain computer or cell phone systems to use telepsychology services. You are solely responsible for

any cost to you to obtain any necessary equipment, accessories, or software to take part in telepsychology.

If our session is interrupted, please disconnect from the session and I will wait two (2) minutes and then re-contact you via the telepsychology platform on which we agreed to conduct therapy. If you do not receive a call back within two (2) minutes, then call me at 404-639-5556.

If there is a technological failure and we are unable to resume the connection, you will only be charged the prorated amount of actual session time.

For communication between sessions, I only use email communication (and rarely, text messaging) and only for administrative purposes unless we have made another agreement. This means that email exchanges and text messages with my office should be limited to administrative matters, such as setting and changing appointments, billing, and other related issues. You should be aware that I cannot guarantee the confidentiality of any information communicated by email or text. I will not discuss any clinical information by email or text and prefer that you do not either.

Confidentiality

I have a legal and ethical responsibility to do all I can to protect all communications. However, the nature of electronic communications technologies is such that I cannot guarantee that our communications will be kept confidential or that other people may not gain access to our communications. I will try to use updated encryption methods, firewalls, and back-up systems to help keep your information private, but there is a risk that our electronic communications may be compromised, unsecured, or accessed by others. You should also take reasonable steps to ensure the security of our communications (for example, only using secure networks for telepsychology sessions and having passwords to protect the device you use for telepsychology).

The extent of confidentiality and the exceptions to confidentiality that I outlined in my Informed Consent are applicable to telepsychology. Please let me know if you have any questions about exceptions to confidentiality.

Fees

The same fee rates will apply for telepsychology as apply for in-person psychotherapy. PLEASE NOTE that insurance or other managed care providers may not cover sessions that are conducted via telecommunication. If your insurance, HMO, third-party payor, or other managed care provider does not cover electronic psychotherapy sessions, you will be solely responsible for the

entire fee. Please contact your insurance company prior to our engaging in telepsychology sessions in order to determine whether these sessions will be covered.

Records

The telepsychology sessions shall not be recorded in any way unless agreed to in writing by mutual consent. I will maintain a record of our session in the same way I maintain records of in-person sessions in accordance with my policies.

Informed Consent

This agreement is intended as a supplement to the general informed consent that we agreed to at the outset of our clinical work together and does not amend any of the terms of that agreement. Your signature below indicates agreement with its terms and conditions.

Client Signature

Date