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Consent for In-Person Psychological Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This document contains important information about in person services in my offices during this COVID-10 public health crisis. Please read this information carefully and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement.

The threat of COVID-19 is ongoing throughout the United States. As a way to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19, my practice has transitioned to providing most services via telecommunications technology. Use of telecommunications technology reduces the need for persons to come into close contact with each other or to be in areas where exposure to COVID-19 may occur. However, in some situations, teletherapy services may not be adequate, and in-person services may be more appropriate.

The decision about whether to engage in in-person services is based on current conditions and guidelines, which may change at any time. It is possible that a return to all-remote services will be necessary at some point based on consideration of health and safety issues. Such a decision will be made in consultation with you, but I will make the final determination based on a careful weighing of the risks and applicable regulations.

In order for me to provide you with in-person services, the following protocols must be followed by patients/clients and providers:

- You agree not to present for in-person services if you have a fever, shortness of breath, coughing, or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to another person who is showing signs of infection or has confirmed COVID-19 within the past two weeks.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the office entrance and must be used upon entering the office.
- Social distancing requirements must be met, meaning that you must maintain a six-foot distance from others while in offices, office waiting area, and other areas. If you prefer to wait outside and be called by phone when your appointment is to start, please let me know (to avoid the waiting area).
- Patients/clients and providers will be required to wear face coverings or masks while in the office. If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided to you.
- There will be no physical contact with others in the office.
- If you arrive for the appointment, and it appears that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, I will ask you to leave the office.

- There will be no eating or drinking in the office.

Notification Requirement

- If a resident of your home tests positive for COVID-19, you will immediately let me know.
- If either I or a member of my household tests positive for the virus, I will notify you so you can take necessary precautions.

As COVID-19 regulations continue to evolve, I may become legally required at some point to disclose that you and I have been in contact, especially if either of us were to test positive or show signs of COVID-19 infection. If I am legally compelled to disclose information, I will inform you and will only provide the minimum necessary information (e.g., your name and the dates of our contact) required by law.

I remain committed to following state and federal guidelines and to adhering to prevailing professional healthcare standards to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in my offices. Despite my careful attention to sanitization, social distancing, and other protocols, there is still a chance that you will be exposed to COVID-19 in my office. If, at any point, you prefer to stop in-person services or to consider transitioning to remote services, please let me know.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand that there is still a potential risk of exposure and that you agree to follow the safety protocols outlined above in order to engage in in-person services. In addition, you agree that you will not hold me liable if you are exposed and/or become infected with COVID-19 as a result of receiving services in my office.

Client

Date

Psychologist

Date