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INFORMED CONSENT FOR ONLINE PSYCHOTHERAPY

I have the right to withhold or withdraw consent at any time without affecting my right to future care or treatment nor risking the loss or withdrawal of any program benefits to which I would otherwise be entitled.

Technology

- Debra Diaz, LCSW will use HIPPA compliant video services
- The client is responsible for securing his or her own computer hardware, internet access points, and password security.
- Debra Diaz, LCSW is not liable for confidentiality breaches when they are caused by client error.
- Debra Diaz, LCSW is not responsible for their client's equipment failure, e.g. camera, and/or Internet service.
- Debra Diaz, LCSW is not responsible for lapses in confidentiality that are in direct response to the client's actions.

Disconnection Problems

- If video services are not available due to an unplanned equipment or service malfunction, sessions will occur via telephone/facetime

Recordings Are Prohibited

- Clients are not allowed to make an audio or video recording of any portion of the session.

Risk of Harm

- Online therapy is not a crisis based clinical service.
- Online psychotherapy may not be appropriate for clients with active suicidal or homicidal thoughts, or clients who are experiencing acute mental health problems, such as manic or psychotic symptoms.
- It is the responsibility of the client to inform the therapist if they are at risk of harm to self or others.
- If a client who was not formerly at risk, should become at risk of such harm to self or others, they must immediately report it to the therapist. In such cases, a client may be referred to a traditional non-online counseling program or provider.

Confidentiality Restrictions

- The laws that protect the confidentiality of any medical information also apply to online psychotherapy.

- Information about the client will only be released with his or her express written permission, with the exceptions of the following cases

Records

- The therapist will maintain records of online psychotherapy and/or consultation services.
- All clinical records will be maintained as required by applicable legal and ethical standards according to the various counseling professions licensing boards, i.e. National Association for Social Workers.

Confidentiality Restrictions

- The laws that protect the confidentiality of any medical information also apply to online psychotherapy.
- Information about the client will only be released with his or her express written permission, with the exceptions of the following cases
 - If the therapist determines risk of self-harm
 - If the therapist determines risk of harm to others
 - If the therapist is informed about or suspects abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a minor or of an incapacitated adult

Payments

- Credit card or other online payment options are available.
- Payments are also able to be mailed if preferred.

Client signature

I understand the risks and limitations to online psychotherapy. By signing this consent, I agree to abide by its content.

PRINT PATIENT NAME

PATIENT SIGNATURE

DATE

IF PATIENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD/
UNABLE TO GIVE CONSENT,
PRINT NAME OF PARENT(S)/
SOLE LEGAL GUARDIAN

IF PATIENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD/
UNABLE TO GIVE CONSENT,
SIGNATURE OF PARENT(S)/
SOLE LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE