

## Fair Way Counseling - Informed Consent

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** Everything you say in these sessions or recorded in written notes are confidential and may not be released to anyone without your written permission except where disclosure is required by law.

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**WHEN DISCLOSURE IS REQUIRED BY LAW:** Disclosure is required or may be required by law when there is a reasonable suspicion of child, dependent, or elder abuse or neglect; where a client presents a danger to self, to others, or to property, or is gravely disabled; or when a family member communicates the client presents a danger to others. Disclosure may also be required by the courts. I will not release records to any third party unless I am authorized to do so by all adult parties who were part of the family therapy, couple therapy or other treatment that involved more than one adult client.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**EMERGENCY:** If there is an emergency during therapy or after therapy, and I become concerned about your personal safety, the possibility of you injuring someone else, or about you receiving proper psychiatric care, I will do whatever I can within the limits of the law to prevent you from injuring yourself or others and to ensure you receive the proper medical care. For this purpose, I may also contact the person whose name you have provided on the intake form.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**HEALTH INSURANCE & CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS:** Disclosure of confidential information may be required by your health insurance carrier or other third-party payer in order to process the claims. Only the minimum necessary information will be communicated to the carrier.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**RECORDING OF SESSIONS OR OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION:** I prefer to be as interactive as possible with every client. This can be interrupted by taking notes simultaneous with interactions. For this reason I record interactions for the purpose of later documenting the interaction. This is optional and not a requirement of treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**RECORDS AND YOUR RIGHT TO REVIEW THEM:** The law requires I keep treatment records for at least 6 years. As a client, you have the right to review or receive a summary of your records at any time, except in limited legal or emergency circumstances or when I feel that releasing such information might be harmful in any way. Upon your request, I will release information to any agency/person you specify unless I feel releasing such information might be harmful in any way. When more than one client is involved in treatment, such as in cases of couple and family sessions, I will release records only with signed authorizations from all the adults involved in the treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**TELEPHONE & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** If you need to contact me between sessions, please call us at (800) 709-0309 or text (501) 439-0807. If we do not answer, we will return your call as soon as possible. If an emergency situation arises, indicate it clearly in your message. If you need to talk to someone right away call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room.

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**THE PROCESS OF THERAPY/EVALUATION AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE:** Therapy can affect you in many ways. You may resolve the problem you came in for, but it takes effort on your part. I want you to be open and honest. We may also talk about unpleasant events which may create discomfort. I may challenge some of your ways of thinking. You must also know that while we expect change, there is no promise that this therapy will yield a positive result. Change will sometimes be easy and swift, but more often it will be slow and even frustrating. I am likely to draw on various psychological approaches. These approaches may include, behavioral, cognitive-behavioral, cognitive, psychodynamic, existential, system/family, developmental (adult, child, family), humanistic or psycho-educational. I do not prescribe drugs.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**TERMINATION:** After the first meeting, I will assess if I can be of benefit to you. I do not accept clients who, in my opinion, I cannot help. In that case, I will give you a number of referrals whom you can contact. If at any point during therapy you are non-compliant, I may terminate treatment. In such a case, I will give you a number of referrals that may be of help to you. Upon your request, I will provide her or him with the essential information needed. You have the right to terminate therapy at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

**DUAL RELATIONSHIPS:** Not all dual or multiple relationships are unethical or avoidable. Therapy never involves any dual relationship that impairs the therapist's objectivity, clinical judgment or can be exploitative in nature. It is important to realize that in some areas multiple relationships are unavoidable. I will never publicly acknowledge working with you without written permission. I will not accept you as a client if I feel a significant dual or multiple relationship exists. It is your responsibility to advise me if any dual or multiple relationship becomes uncomfortable for you in any way. I will always listen carefully and respond to your feedback and will discontinue the dual relationship if you find it is or may interfere with the effectiveness of the therapy or your welfare. You may do the same at any time.

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**SOCIAL NETWORKING AND INTERNET SEARCHES:** At times, I may conduct a web search on my clients before the beginning of therapy or during therapy. If you have concerns or questions regarding this practice, please discuss them with me. I do not accept friend requests from current or former clients on social networking sites, such as Facebook. I believe that adding clients as friends on these sites and/or communicating via such sites is likely to compromise their privacy and confidentiality. For this same reason, I request that clients not communicate with me via any interactive or social networking web sites.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initial**

I have read the above policies. I understand them and agree to comply with them:

**Client's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Therapist's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_