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Lic. #PSY10816

Electronic Communication Policy

In order to maintain clarity regarding our use of electronic modes of communication during your treatment, I have prepared the following policy. This is because the use of various types of electronic communications is common in our society, and many individuals prefer this method of communication. Many of these common modes of communication, however, put your privacy at risk and can be inconsistent with the law and the standards of my profession. Consequently, this policy has been prepared to assure the security and confidentiality of your treatment and to assure that it is consistent with professional ethics and the law.

If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to discuss this with me.

Email Communication

I use email only with your permission and only for administrative purposes unless we have made another agreement. That means that email exchanges should be limited to things like setting and changing appointments, billing matters, and other related issues. Please do not email me about clinical matters because email is not a secure way to contact me. If you need to discuss a clinical matter with me, please wait to discuss this during your therapy session. Face-to-face communication is simply much more secure as a mode of communication. If you cannot wait until our next session, please contact me to arrange a sooner appointment time.

Text Messaging

Because text messaging is a very unsecure and impersonal mode of communication, I do not text message to nor do I respond to text messages from anyone in treatment with me. So, please do not text message me unless we have made other arrangements.

Social Media

I do not communicate with or contact any of my patients through social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. In addition, if I discover that I have accidentally established an online relationship with you, I will cancel that relationship. This is because these types of casual social contacts can create significant security risks for you. Please do not try to contact me through social media.

Websites

I have a website that you are free to access. I use it for professional reasons to provide information to others about me and my practice. You are welcome to access and review the information that I have on my website and, if you have questions about it, we should discuss this during your therapy sessions.

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Web Searches

I will not use web searches to gather information about you without your permission. I believe that this violates your privacy rights. However, I understand that you might choose to gather information about me in this way. In this day and age there is an incredible amount of information available about individuals on the internet, much of which may actually be known to that person and some of which may be inaccurate or unknown. If you encounter any information about me through web searches, or in any other fashion, please discuss this with me so that we can deal with it and its potential impact on your treatment.

Recently it has become fashionable for patients to review their healthcare practitioners on various websites. Mental health practitioners cannot respond to such comments because of confidentiality restrictions. If you encounter such reviews of me, please share it with me so that we can discuss it and its potential impact on your therapy. Please do not rate my work with you while we are in treatment together on any of these websites. This is because it has a significant potential to damage our ability to work productively together.

Please sign below to verify that you have read the above policy regarding use of electronic communication in my psychology practice.

Signature

Date