

## **Meredith W. Furr, LCMHCA**

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### **INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to resume in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between us.

#### **Decision to Meet Face-to-Face**

We have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, I may require that we meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will talk about it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if I believe it is necessary, I may determine that we return to telehealth for everyone's well-being.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, I will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so that is an issue we may also need to discuss.

#### **Risks of Opting for In-Person Services**

You understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). I understand that while Service Provider has undertaken reasonable steps to lessen the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in connection with the Services, Service Provider is not responsible in any manner for any risks related to COVID-19 in connection with the Services. I understand that the World Health Organization has classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. I further understand that COVID-19 is a highly contagious and dangerous disease, and that contact with the virus that causes COVID-19 may result in significant personal injury or death. I am fully aware that participation in the Services (including any related travel) carries with it certain inherent risks related to COVID-19 transmission ("Inherent Risks") that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid such risks. Inherent Risks may include, but are not limited to, (1) the risk of coming into close contact with individuals or objects that may be carrying COVID-19; (2) the risk of transmitting or contracting COVID-19, directly or indirectly, to or from other individuals; and (3) injuries and complications ranging in severity from minor to catastrophic, including death, resulting directly or indirectly from COVID-19 or the treatment thereof. Further, I understand that the risks of COVID-19 are not fully understood, and that contact with, or transmission of, COVID-19 may result in risks including but not limited to loss, personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expense, the exact nature of which are not currently ascertainable, and all of which are to be considered Inherent Risks. I hereby voluntarily accept and assume all risk of loss, personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expense arising from such Inherent Risks.

### **Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure**

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, me, and our families and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting / returning to a telehealth arrangement.

**Initial** each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will take your temperature before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms of the coronavirus, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. If you wish to cancel for this reason, I won't charge you our normal cancellation fee. \_\_\_\_\_
- You can choose to wait in your car or outside and text me (919-523-4242) and let me know you have arrived and I will let you know to come into the building.
- You will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with me. \_\_\_\_\_
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let me know and we will then [begin] resume treatment via telehealth. \_\_\_\_\_

I may change the above precautions if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will talk about any necessary changes.

### **My Commitment to Minimize Exposure**

My practice has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office. Please let me know if you have questions about these efforts.

### **If You or I Are Sick**

You understand that I am committed to keeping you, me and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and I believe that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, I will have to require you to leave the office immediately. We can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate.

If I test positive for the coronavirus, I will notify you so that you can take appropriate precautions.

### **Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection**

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, I may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If I have to report this, I will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that I may do so without an additional signed release.

### **Informed Consent**

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreement that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient/Client

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counselor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

