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Psychotherapist-Client Contract Informed Consent to Treat

Welcome to Boca Raton Counseling Center. This document contains important information about my professional services and business policies. Please take time to read it carefully and make a note any questions you may have so that we can discuss them at our next meeting. When you sign this document, it represents an agreement between us.

Psychotherapy is not easily described in general statements. It varies depending on the personality of the therapist and the client, as well as the problems and challenges you bring forward. There are many different methods I may use to deal with the problems you want to address. The goal is to provide each individual with the treatment that best fits their needs.

Psychotherapy can have both benefits and risks. Since therapy often involves discussing unpleasant aspects of your life, you may experience uncomfortable feelings like sadness, guilt, anger, frustration, loneliness and helplessness. Therapy often leads to better relationships, solutions to specific problems and significant reductions in feelings of distress.

Sessions are usually 50-minutes per week at a time we mutually agree on. Once an appointment is scheduled, you will be expected to pay for the session unless 24 hours advance notice is given, or unless we both agree that you are unable to attend due to circumstances beyond your control. If at all possible, I will try to find another time to reschedule the appointment.

Professional Fees

My fee is \$150 per session. In addition to weekly appointments, I charge this amount for other professional services you may need, though I will break down the hourly cost if I work for periods of less than one hour. These other services include report writing, telephone conversations lasting longer than 10 minutes, attendance at meetings with other professionals and the time spent performing any other service you may request of me. Please be aware that my services do not extend to include any involvement in legal procedures.

You will be expected to pay for your session at the end of each appointment, unless we agree to other arrangements. The cost of therapy should not be an added stress to your life. It is important to keep the lines of communication open so that you are comfortable with the personal and financial investment. In certain circumstances of financial hardship, I may be willing negotiate a fee adjustment.

Insurance Reimbursement

If you have a health insurance policy, it will usually provide some coverage for mental health treatment. I will provide you with a superbill that you could in turn give to your insurance company for reimbursement. I will provide any assistance I can in helping you receive the benefits to which you are entitled.

Contacting Me

I commit to being accessible via the phone when I am not in session.. While am usually in my office during business hours, I do not answer my phone when I am with a client. When I am unavailable, my phone is answered by voicemail which I monitor frequently. I will make every effort to return your call on the day you make it. In the event of an emergency and I cannot be reached , please call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room.

Minors

If you are under 18 years of age, please be aware that the law may provide your parents the right to examine your treatment records. It is my policy to require an agreement from parents that they agree to give up access to your records. If they agree, I will provide them only with general information about our work together, unless I feel there is a high risk that you will seriously harm yourself or someone else. In this case, I will notify them of my concern. Before giving them any information, I will discuss the matter with you, if possible, and do my best to handle any objections you have about what I am prepared to discuss.

Confidentiality

In general, the law protects the privacy of all communications between a client and psychotherapist, and I can release information about our work to others only with your written permission. However, there are a few exceptions.

If I believe that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused, I am a mandated reporter and am legally obligated to file a report with the appropriate state agency (DCF). If I believe that a client is threatening serious bodily harm to another, I am required to take protective actions. These actions may require notifying the potential victims, contacting the police (or other law enforcement agency), or seeking hospitalization for the client. If the client threatens to harm himself or herself, I may be obligated to seek hospitalization for him or her, and/or to contact family members or others who can help provide protection.

Your signature below indicates that you have read the information in this document and agree to abide by its terms during our professional relationship.

Signature of client (or parent of minor) _____

Name (printed) _____ Date _____

I hereby consent to be treated and have been informed of the limitations and risks:

Signature

Date

