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# LIMITS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Psychotherapy is confidential, with the below stated exceptions.

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**Duty to Warn:** Therapists are mandated by law to disclose pertinent information discussed in therapy if the client has an intent or plan to harm another person. We are required to inform the intended victim and notify legal authorities.

**Suicide/Self harm:** Depression is common emotion expressed in therapy, but if a client is feeling hopeless enough to imply or disclose a plan for suicide; steps need to be taken to ensure safety.

\*This would include notifying the legal authorities as well as make reasonable attempts to notify the family.

**Animal abuse:** I will report animal abuse, including cases of neglect and hoarding.

**Vulnerable Adults and Children:** Mental health professionals are required by law to report stated or suspected abuse of a child or vulnerable adult to the appropriate social service agencies and/or legal authorities.

**Prenatal Exposure to Controlled Substances:** in keeping with protecting vulnerable populations, Mental Health Providers are required to report admitted use of controlled substances during pregnancy that are potentially harmful to the fetus.

**Minors/Guardianship:** Parents or legal guardians have the right to access a minor client's health information. Age of adult for psychotherapy is 17 in the state of Texas.

**Insurance Providers:** Information requested includes description of impairments, dates and times of service, diagnosis, treatment plans, treatment progress, and prognosis for improvement, case notes and summaries.

The Texas Family Code allows for consultation with another practitioner when such consultation is for the welfare of the client. When at all possible, we will seek to secure written permission from the client before such communication occurs. Communication between the clinician and client will be deemed confidential under the laws of this state.

I have read and understand the above-stated limitations to confidentiality. I accept the subsequent ramifications should there be a need to act on one of the above-stated exceptions. Other than the noted exceptions, if there are reasons to disclose my protected confidential information I understand that I will be provided a Release of Information form. *I agree to the above limits of confidentiality and understand their meanings and ramifications.*

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Client Signature (*Client's Parent/Guardian if under 18*)

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Today's Date