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Telehealth Consent Form

Technology- assisted distance counseling involves the use of the telephone or computer to enable psychotherapists and clients to communicate at a distance when circumstances make this approach necessary or convenient. Using interactive technologies such as audio, visual or electronic communications can facilitate a therapeutic relationship outside of traditional office settings. Telehealth services can be used by clients occasionally in conjunction with in office visits, or telehealth services maybe the sole way services are rendered. Distance counseling will also be used in the event of inclement weather in order to maintain continuity of care.

The main approach used by Dr. Joseph Doherty, Ed.D. is online video sessions conducted synchronously for the most effective communication. At times, telephone communication may be used in addition to video or when video is not accessible. Sessions will be scheduled at agreed upon times and it will be the responsibility of the client to ensure they are on time and have reliable internet access.

While the most important aspect of counseling is confidentiality, when clients are not face to face this becomes more complicated. These services rely on technology, which allows for greater convenience in service delivery as well as increased risk. While Dr. Joseph Doherty utilizes a HIPAA compliant telehealth platform, <https://sessions.psychologytoday.com/dr-joseph-doherty>, the risks in transmitting information over technology include, but are not limited to, breaches of confidentiality, theft of personal information, and disruption of service due to technical difficulties. Clients should be aware of the risks and be willing to accept the risk when entering into technology-assisted counseling.

Clients will need to have access to, and familiarity with, the appropriate technology in order to participate in the service provided. You will also be asked to be in a private location for the duration of the session in order to minimize privacy issues as well as distractions. No one should be able to hear you or view your computer screen. Telehealth sessions cannot be conducted while client is driving.

For those clients that need/desire distance counseling without the option of in office visits, the following applies. Due to the distant nature of technology counseling, clients will be required to provide two emergency contacts with current contact information as well as the local emergency line. After the first session, a fitness for the appropriateness of online counseling will be determined. This will continue to be assessed throughout treatment. If it is determined this format is no longer appropriate, referrals will be given for therapists in your area.

Emergency Contact #1

Name Relationship Phone Number

Emergency Contact #2

Name Relationship Phone Number

Your Local Police Department Phone Number

You will be provided with a backup means of communication should there be a technical issue. The backup to a scheduled video session will most often be a phone call at the regularly scheduled time. Should neither means work, the counselor will email you in order to reschedule the session. Repeated technology failures on the part of the client will be charged as missed appointment fees and be charged directly to the client as they cannot be charged to the insurance company.

The laws and professional standards that apply to in-person behavioral services also apply to telehealth services. This document does not replace other agreements, contracts, or documentation of informed consent.

I have read this document carefully and fully understand the benefits and risks. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions and I have received satisfactory answers to any questions. With this knowledge, I voluntarily consent to participate in technology- assisted distance counseling via computer or telephone, and agree to the terms herein.

Signature of Client

Joseph Doherty, Ed.D.

Print Name

Date

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