

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

This document contains important information about the decision (yours and your therapist's) to begin or resume in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let us know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between you and Pike Creek Psychological Center (PCPC).

Decision to Meet Face-to-Face

You 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, your therapist may require that you meet via telehealth. Of course you can address any concerns you may have about that with your therapist at that time.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, your therapist 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 you 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). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone 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. You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free.

- You agree to answering health screening questions and having your temperature taken prior to each appointment. If your temperature is elevated (99.5 Fahrenheit or more), or if any of your answers to the health screening questions are positive, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. If you wish to cancel for this reason, you will not be charged the normal cancellation fee.
- Following your health screening and temperature check, you will wait in your car and your therapist will text or call you when they are ready for you. At that point you will enter the building and proceed directly to your therapist's office.
- You will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building.
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the therapy room.
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the office (your therapist and staff will also)
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands or hugging) with your therapist or staff.
- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands.
- If you are bringing your child, you will make sure that your child follows all of these sanitation and distancing protocols.

- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID.
- If you have a job that exposes you to other people who are infected, you will immediately let your therapist and/or our staff know.
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let your therapist and/or our staff know.
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let your therapist and/or our staff know and we will then begin or resume treatment via telehealth.

We 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.

Our Commitment to Minimize Exposure

Our practice has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office and we have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let us know if you have questions about these efforts.

If You or I Are Sick

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

If your therapist or any of our staff test positive for the coronavirus, we 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, we may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If we have to report this, we 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

Signature

Date of Birth

Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic

Our office is taking the following precautions to protect our patients and help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

- Our waiting rooms are closed.
- All therapists and staff wear masks.
- Staff maintains safe distancing.
- Restroom soap dispensers are maintained and everyone is encouraged to wash their hands.
- Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is available in the therapy rooms and at the reception counter.
- We have a limited number of therapists in the office at one time.
- We ask all patients to wait in their cars or outside until their therapist contacts them that they are ready for them.
- Credit card pads, pens and other areas that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized after each use.
- Physical contact is not permitted.
- Tissues and trash bins are easily accessed. Trash is disposed of on a frequent basis.
- Common areas are thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.