



Center for Counseling and Education

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

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to have in-person services considering the 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 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 going back to telehealth, we will talk about it first and try to address the issue. 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 with telehealth services, I will respect that decision, as long as it is 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). 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 (you, me, and our families, CFCE staff, and other clients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. Your failure or refusal to adhere to these safeguards 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 agree to cancel the appointment and, if possible, proceed using telehealth if you have any symptoms of COVID. If you wish to cancel for this reason, you will not be charged our normal cancellation fee. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will wait in your car or outside until contacted by your therapist. (Our waiting rooms are currently closed). \_\_\_
- You will wash your hands or use hand sanitizer when you enter the building. \_\_\_
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the office. \_\_\_
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the office (as will your Therapist, unless both parties are vaccinated and agree not to wear masks). \_\_\_
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands). \_\_\_

Center for Counseling and Education, LLC

19 East Main Street • Marlton, NJ 08053 • 856-985-9091 | 66 North Main Street • Medford, NJ 08055 • 609-714-8400

[www.cfcej.com](http://www.cfcej.com)

- 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 these sanitation and distancing protocols. \_\_\_\_
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure. \_\_\_\_
- If you have a job that exposes you to those who are infected, you will let me know. \_\_\_\_
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let me know. \_\_\_\_
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let me know and we will then 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.

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

CFCE has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the virus within the office and we have posted our efforts. 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, CFCE staff, and all 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 or CFCE staff in the building 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 must report this, I will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details of 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 that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

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

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Patient/Client Date

Therapist/Date