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YOUR PATIENT RIGHTS

This Bill of Rights is intended to protect the rights and enhance the wellbeing of clients, by informing them of key aspects of the clinical relationship. As a client, you have, without asking, the right:

(1) To be treated in a professional, respectful, competent and ethical manner consistent with all applicable state laws and the following professional ethical standards:

- a. for psychologists, the American Psychological Association.
- b. for independent clinical social workers, the National Association of Social Workers.
- c. for pastoral psychotherapists, the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.
- d. for clinical mental health counselors, the American Mental Health Counselor Association.
- e. for marriage/family therapists, the American Association for Marriage/Family Therapists.

(2) To receive information about your treatment provider's knowledge, skills, experience and credentials.

(3) To have the information you disclose to your mental health provider kept confidential within the limits of state and federal law. Communications between mental health providers and clients are typically confidential, unless the law requires their disclosure. Should such an exception arise, will share only such information as required by law. Examples of such exceptions include but are not limited to:

- a. abuse of a child;
- b. abuse of an incapacitated adult;
- c. Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulation compliance;
- d. orders of the court; and
- e. significant threats to self, others or property.

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(4) To a safe setting and to know that the services provided are of a quality consistent with the standard of care within each profession and to know that dual relationships (i.e. non-clinical, non-therapeutic) between a mental health provider and a client or former client are a violation of the law.

(5) To participate in the planning, implementation and termination or referral of your treatment.

(6) To informed consent: to be informed of the risks and benefits of the proposed treatment, and the risks and benefits of no treatment. In addition, clients have the right to be informed of their rights and responsibilities, and of the mental health provider's practice policies regarding confidentiality, office hours, fees, missed appointments, billing policies, electronic communications, record management, and other relevant matters except as otherwise provided by law.

(8) To be informed regarding the provision(s) for emergency coverage.

(9) To know that your mental health provider is licensed by this state to provide mental health services.

a. You have the right to obtain information about mental health practice in this state. You may contact the Board of Mental Health Practice for a list names, addresses, phone numbers and websites of state and national professional associations.

b. You have the right to discuss questions or concerns about the mental health services you receive with your provider.