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PRACTICE INFORMATION

Pursuant to the Regulations of the Board of Mental Health Practice and The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, all mental health professionals must provide their clients with the following basic information. I encourage you discuss each item with me if and when you have any questions.

1. Code of Ethics - As a clinical psychologist, I am governed by the Code of Ethics of the American Psychological Association. Copies of this Code are available upon request.
2. Confidentiality - Under state law, communications between a client and a licensed psychologist are privileged (confidential) and may not be disclosed without the specific authorization of the client except under specific, limited circumstances. However, confidentiality can be broken if the client is believed to be a danger to him or herself or to someone else, in order to protect the client or the person that they are threatening to harm. Also, a court can compel a therapist to testify about what is discussed in therapy. This is not often done, but most ethics codes state that therapists are required to follow court orders. Also, the privilege does not apply in a civil commitment proceeding in which the issue is whether the individual is a danger to self or others
3. Reporting Requirements - Among the exceptions to confidentiality are state reporting laws, which require licensed psychologists to report to the appropriate authorities certain types of misconduct. For example, "any person having reason to suspect" abuse or neglect of a child or an incapacitated adult must report to the State. Another statute requires licensed psychologists to warn the police or likely victims of a client's "serious threat of serious violence against a clearly identified or reasonably identifiable victim . . ." or property.
4. Minors - The treatment of a minor must be authorized by a parent of the minor (with some exceptions). If a parent with custodial rights objects to treatment, that objection must be resolved, presumably through legal channels, or treatment will be reasonably terminated. Although communications between a client and a licensed psychologist are confidential as described above, parents of the minor have a right to access and authorize release of the

information. When a child turns 18, the control of their treatment and treatment records reverts to the child. If this is a concern, please discuss it with me before starting treatment.

5. Maintaining Professional Boundaries - Licensed psychologists are obligated to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and relationships with present and past clients. These boundaries may differ depending on the circumstances, but certain boundaries must never be crossed. For example, a therapist should not become sexually involved with a client. Information on the procedure to report such misconduct is available upon request. Do not hesitate to raise any questions you may have regarding professional boundaries.

6. Cost of Professional Services - My billing rate for clinical time is \$95 for individual sessions. The charge for any session with more than one party present -- whether spouse, partner, or other family member -- is \$130. The fee for missed appointments and for appointments cancelled with less than 24-hours notice is \$40. Any and all ancillary services and activities are billed at \$100 per hour.

7. Regarding Legal Services - I conduct a clinical practice. I do not participate in legal proceedings or provide evaluation or services relating to litigation. By agreeing to treatment with me, you agree never to subpoena me or compromise my therapeutic neutrality (for instance by seeking my participation in divorce or custody proceedings).

8. Limits of Availability and Provisions for Emergency Services - I am available by appointment only. Evening appointments are limited and access to them is not guaranteed. I return all calls to my emergency backup number (813) 318-1890. Understand, however, that at times (more often than you might expect) electronic devices malfunction, lose power, or move out of range of wireless access. **THE PRIMARY SOURCES OF HELP IN LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES ARE THE POLICE AND YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM.**

9. Recommended Treatment - At the beginning of the therapeutic relationship, and throughout your treatment as appropriate, I will discuss my recommendations for treatment. You are encouraged at all times to ask whatever questions you may have about the recommended treatment.

10. Your Insurance Company - I am not longer working with any insurance companies, except that I will accept Tricare for active duty military, individual sessions only.

11. Electronic Communications - Tricare requires that I transmit certain information electronically (i.e., by email or by facsimile). I cannot guarantee the confidentiality of such communications. If you are using Tricare to cover your sessions, you are agreeing to electronic communications with your insurance company.

12. Education and Qualifications - My undergraduate degree in Social Relations is from Harvard University. My doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology is from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. My internship was at University of Massachusetts Medical Center. I am state licensed, and I have been listed in the National Register for Health Service Providers in Psychology since 1993.

13. Nature and Scope of Practice - I am a psychotherapist and my work is the conduct of psychotherapy with adolescents, adults, and couples. I do not administer psychological testing or neuropsychological testing.