



## INFORMED CONSENT FOR TELEPSYCHOLOGY/TELEHEALTH SESSIONS

This Informed Consent for Telepsychology contains important information regarding psychotherapy sessions using the Internet. Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will represent an agreement between us.

### **Benefits and Risks of Telepsychology**

Telepsychology refers to providing psychotherapy services remotely using telecommunications technologies, such as video conferencing. One of the benefits of telepsychology is that the client and clinician can engage in services without being in the same physical location. This can be helpful in ensuring continuity of care if unable to meet in person. Telepsychology, however, requires technical competence on both our parts to be helpful. Although there are benefits of telepsychology, there are some differences between in-person psychotherapy and telepsychology, as well as some risks. For example:

- Risks to confidentiality. Because telepsychology sessions take place outside of the therapist's private office, there is potential for other people to overhear sessions if you are not in a private place during the session. I will take reasonable steps on my end to ensure your privacy. But it is important for you to make sure you find a private place for our session where you will not be interrupted. It is also important for you to protect the privacy of our session on your cell phone or other device. You should participate in therapy only while in a room or area where other people are not present and cannot overhear the conversation.
- Issues related to technology. There are many ways that technology issues might impact telepsychology. For example, technology may stop working during a session, other people might be able to get access to our private conversation, or stored data could be accessed by unauthorized people or companies. However, I have taken precautions to ensure your privacy in a HIPAA-compliant manner.
- Crisis management and intervention. Usually, I will not engage in telepsychology with clients who are currently in a crisis situation requiring high levels of support and intervention. Before engaging in telepsychology, we will develop an emergency response plan to address potential crisis situations that may arise during the course of our telepsychology work.
- Efficacy. Most research shows that telepsychology is about as effective as in-person psychotherapy. However, some therapists believe that something is lost by not being in the same room. For example, there is debate about a therapist's ability to fully understand non-verbal information when working remotely.

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### Electronic Communications

- I use a HIPAA-compliant version of Zoom. I will send an email invitation to you with the login information, and you will be put in my “waiting room.” Please make sure your phone or computer’s camera and microphone are enabled. At the time of our appointment I will log on and complete the connection. If at any point during the session there is a technological failure and we are unable to resume the connection, you will only be charged the prorated amount of actual session time.
- I am only allowed to perform teletherapy in states in which I am licensed (Maryland and Massachusetts). Therefore, if you are in another state, I cannot perform teletherapy. In these circumstances, I will do my best to help you locate a local provider and we can resume sessions when you are back in Massachusetts or Maryland.

### Telephone/Cell Phone Communications

- I only perform teletherapy sessions using Zoom. Telephone calls should be used only for scheduling and non-clinical matters, given that most service providers are not HIPAA-compliant.

### Fees

The same fee rates apply for telepsychology as for in-person psychotherapy. However, insurance or other managed care providers may not cover sessions that are conducted via telecommunication. *If your insurance, HMO, third-party payor, or other managed care provider does not cover electronic psychotherapy sessions, you will be solely responsible for the entire fee of the session. **Please contact your insurance company prior to any scheduled telepsychology sessions in order to determine whether these sessions will be covered.***

### Records

The telepsychology sessions shall not be recorded in any way unless agreed to in writing by mutual consent. I will maintain a record of our session in the same way I maintain records of in-person sessions in accordance with my policies.

### Informed Consent

This agreement is intended as a supplement to the general informed consent that we agreed to at the outset of our clinical work together and does not amend any of the terms of that agreement.

Your signature below indicates agreement with its terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client or Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corinne J. Lewkowicz, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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