

## **Technology Assisted Counseling (TAC) Policies, Consent, and Agreement Form**

This form is in **addition** to the Informed Consent Form and Texas Notice Form: Notice of Licensed Professional Counselors' Policies and Practices to Protect the Privacy of Your Health Information commonly known as HIPAA. You must sign both in order to participate in Technology Assisted Counseling (TAC) sessions. TAC incorporates phone and video counseling. Prior to engaging in TAC an assessment/consultation will be done to assure that TAC is an appropriate form of counseling. This is to inform you about what you can expect regarding your participation in TAC counseling.

### **Benefits:**

The benefits to TAC counseling are:

1. The ability to expand your choice of service provider.
2. More convenient counseling options including location, time, no driving, etc.
3. Reduces the overall cost and time of therapy due to not having to drive to and from an office.
4. Ability to have real time monitoring and reduces the wait time for scheduling office appointments.
5. Increased availability of services to homebound clients, clients with limited mobility, and clients without convenient transportation options.

### **Limitations:**

It is important to note that there are limitations to TAC counseling that can affect the quality of the session(s). These limitations include but are not limited to the following:

1. I cannot see you, your body language, or your non-verbal reactions to what we are discussing.
2. Due to technology limitations I may not hear all of what you are saying and may need to ask you to repeat things.
3. Technology might fail before or during the TAC counseling session.
4. Although every effort is made to reduce confidentiality breaches, breaches may occur for various reasons.
5. To reduce the effect of these limitations, I may ask you to describe how you are feeling, thinking, and/or acting in more detail than I would during a face-to-face session. You may also feel that you need to describe your feelings, thoughts, and/or actions in more detail than you would during a face-to-face session.

### **Logistics:**

When I provide phone/video-counseling sessions, I will call you at our scheduled time or send you link for our secure and HIPAA compliant video session. I expect that you are available at our scheduled time and are prepared, focused and engaged in the session. I am calling you from a private location where I am the only person in the room. You also need to be in a private location where you can speak openly without being overheard or interrupted by others to protect your own confidentiality. If you choose to be in a place where there are people or others can hear you, I cannot be responsible for protecting your confidentiality. Every effort **MUST** be made on your part to protect your own confidentiality. I suggest you wear a headset to increase confidentiality and also increase sound quality of our sessions. Please know that I cannot guarantee the privacy or confidentiality of conversations held via phone, as phone conversations can be intercepted either accidentally or intentionally. Please assure you reduce all possibilities of interruptions for the duration of our scheduled appointment.

Please know that per best practices and ethical guidelines I can only practice in the states I am licensed in. That means wherever you reside I must be licensed. You agree to inform me if your therapy location has changed or if you have relocated your domicile to a different jurisdiction.

### **Connection Loss:**

**During Phone Sessions:** If we lose our phone connection during our session, I will call you back immediately. Please also attempt to call me at (210) 693-7131 if I cannot reach you. If we are unable to reach each other due to technological issues, I will attempt to call you two times. If I cannot reach you, I will remain available to you during the entire course of our scheduled session. Should you contact me back and there is time left in your session we will continue.

**During Video Sessions:** If we lose our connection during a video session, I will call you to troubleshoot the reason we lost connection. If I cannot reach you, I will remain available to you during the entire course of our scheduled session. Should you contact me back and there is time left in your session we will continue. If the reason for a connection loss i.e. technology, battery dying, bad reception, etc. occurs on your part, you will still be charged for the entire session. If the loss for connection is a result of something on my end, we can either complete our session via phone or plan an alternate time to complete the remaining minutes of our session.

Please list your main number and an alternate number below.

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Number(s)

***Recording of Sessions:***

Please note that recording, screenshots, etc of any kind of any session is not be permitted and are grounds for termination of the client-therapist relationship.

***Cancellation Policy:***

If you must cancel or reschedule an appointment, 24-hour advanced notice is required, otherwise you will be held financially responsible. Should you cancel or miss an appointment with notification less than 24 hours this will result in being charged a **\$50 fee** for your missed appointment. Cancellations must be communicated by phone, NOT email or text. Phone/video sessions should be treated as regular in office sessions. If you are late getting on the sessions, are unable to talk at our scheduled time, your battery has died and you are unable to access another confidential place to talk, or any other variable that would have you not be able to attend our session please know that you will be charged for the session. Please make the necessary arrangements you need to be available and present for your session.

***Emergencies and Confidentiality:***

I request an emergency contact for you. Please list the person's first and last name, relationship and phone number(s) of your emergency contact:

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Full Name	Relationship	Number(s)
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I also request the address from which you are calling and the number to your local police department including area code in the area in which you are located during the time of our call.

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Street Address

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City	State	Zip Code
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City and State of Local Police Department	Phone Number
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If a situation occurs where we are talking and get disconnected and you are in crisis, you agree to call 911, go to your local emergency room immediately or contact the National Suicide Hotline at 800-784-2433.

If I have concerns about your safety at **any** time during a phone session, I will need to break confidentiality and call 911 (if located in the same county or emergency services in the area you are located at the time of the call) and/or your emergency contact immediately. Please note that everything in our informed consent that you signed, including all the confidentiality exceptions, still applies during phone/video sessions.

***Consent to Participate in TAC Sessions:***

By signing below you agree that you have read and understand all of the above sections of TAC informed consent. You agree that you also understand the limitations associated with participating in TAC counseling sessions and consent to attend sessions under the terms described in this document.

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Printed Name of Client

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Signature of Client

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Date

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Printed Name of Client

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Signature of Client

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Date