

COMPASSIONATE COUNSELING SERVICES

Confidential Agreement

There are several other matters concerning confidentiality:

1. One of the most important rights involves confidentiality. Within limits of the law, information revealed by you during counseling will be kept strictly confidential and will not be revealed to any other person or agency without your permission. I may occasionally find it helpful or necessary to consult about a case with another professional. In these consultations I make every effort to avoid revealing the identity of the client. The consultant is, of course, also legally bound to maintain confidentiality. If I feel that it would be helpful to refer you to another professional for consultation then, of course, with your authorization, I will discuss your case with her or him.
2. I am required to maintain complete treatment records. Patients are entitled to receive a copy of these records, unless I believe the information would be emotionally damaging and, in such cases, the records must be made available to the patient's appropriate designee. Patients will be charged an appropriate fee for preparation.
3. There are certain situations where I am required to provide information to appropriate persons or agencies. These situations are as follows: (a) if you threaten grave or bodily harm or death to another person, (b) if a court of law issues a legitimate court order, (c) if you reveal information which causes reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse, (d) no information shall be treated as privileged as to any information pertaining to criminal acts of violation of the law.
4. If you are under eighteen years of age, please be aware that while the specific content of our communications is confidential, your parents have a right to receive general information on the progress of the treatment.
5. Under current Oklahoma law, in group and family therapy and in marital therapy all participants are required to consent to the release of information. One marital partner may not waive privilege for another. In cases of marital therapy, therefore, the record may be released only if both parties waive privilege of release of the record is court ordered.
6. If you use third party reimbursement, I am required to provide the insurer with a clinical diagnosis and sometimes a treatment plan or summary. I copy can be provided.

While this summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, you should be aware that the laws governing these issues are often complex and I am not an attorney. I encourage our active discussion of these issues. However, if you need more specific advice, formal legal consultation may be desirable.

I have read the above, and understand the limits of confidentiality in this relationship, and the circumstances in which confidential communications may need to be breached.

Signature

Date

Witness

Date