

HIPAA Compliance Patient Consent Form

Our Notice of Privacy Practices provides information about how we may use or disclose protected health information. The notice contains a patient's rights section describing your rights under the law. You ascertain that by your signature that you have reviewed our notice before signing with your consent.

The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") is a federal law that provides new privacy protections and patient/client rights with regard to the use and disclosure of your Protected Health Information (PHI) used for the purpose of treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. HIPAA requires that we provide you with a Notice of Privacy Practices and Patient Rights (the Notice) for use and disclosure of PHI for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. The Notice explains HIPAA and its application to your personal health information. The law requires that we obtain your signature acknowledging that we have provided you with this information. Although these documents are long and sometimes complex, it is very important that you read them carefully. You can discuss any questions you have about the procedures with your therapist. When you sign the Acknowledgement form, the Therapist– Client Services Agreement will represent a formal agreement between you and your therapist. You may revoke this Agreement in writing at any time. That revocation will be binding the therapist has taken action in reliance on it; if there are obligations imposed on the therapist by your health insurer in order to process or substantiate claims made under your policy; or if you have not satisfied any financial obligations you have incurred. Record Keeping: HIPAA requires all medical records and other individually identifiable health information used or disclosed by us in any form, whether electronic, on paper, or orally, are kept properly confidential. HIPAA gives you, the client, significant new rights to understand and control how your health information is used. HIPAA provides penalties for covered entities that misuse personal health information. Each time you meet with your therapist, an electronic record is made which may contain personal information. This may include information regarding your symptoms, diagnoses, treatment, a plan for future treatment, and billing-related information. If you prefer paper records, we can discuss this option at an additional cost. For more information regarding the federal HIPAA Privacy Law visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html>

Confidentiality

The law protects the privacy of all communications between a client and psychotherapist. In most situations, your therapist can only release information about your treatment to others if you sign a written Authorization form that meets HIPAA legal requirements. Consultation with Professionals: Waymakers Counseling may find it helpful to consult other health and mental-health professionals. The other professionals are also legally bound to keep the information confidential. Court: If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information concerning the professional services provided to you by your therapist, such information is protected by the psychotherapist-client privilege law. Your therapist cannot provide any information without your written Authorization, or a court order. If you are involved in or contemplating litigation, you should consult with your attorney to determine whether a court would be likely to order your therapist to disclose information. If a government agency is requesting the information for health oversight activities, your therapist may be required to provide it for them in certain circumstances. Your information may be used in e-mailing, texting, phone, voicemail, etc. Waymakers Counseling may contact you/leave message to provide appointment reminders. Social Media. As an ethical guideline, I refrain from connecting with clients, both past and present, through Facebook, LinkedIn, or other online sites.

Exceptions to confidentiality

Waymakers Counseling may disclose your personal information without your consent or authorization in the following circumstances:

- **Child Abuse:** Evidenced child or dependent child or elder abuse and maltreatment will be reported to the local child and/or elder protective services agency.
- **Health Oversight:** If there is an inquiry or complaint about my professional conduct to the Board of Mental Health Counselors, Waymakers Counseling may disclose relevant confidential information for protection as needed.
- **Judicial or Administrative Proceedings:** If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information about the professional services that I have provided you and/or the records thereof, such information is privileged under state law, and I must not release this information without your written authorization, or a court order.
- **Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** Your confidential information may be disclosed to protect you or others from a serious threat of harm by you. This may include seeking hospitalization or contacting emergency contact/family members for your protection.
- **Worker's Compensation:** If you file a worker's compensation claim, and I am treating you for the issues involved with that complaint, then I may be required to release records which contain information regarding your psychological condition and treatment.
- If a client files a complaint or lawsuit against Waymakers Counseling, your information may be disclosed in order to defend the organization. If such a situation arises, your therapist will make every effort to fully discuss it with you before taking any action and endeavor to limit disclosure to only what is necessary. While this written summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, it is important that you discuss any questions or concerns that you may have now or in the future with your therapist. The laws governing confidentiality can be quite complex. In situations where specific advice is required, formal legal advice may be needed.

NOTICE:

E-Signature: All information may be electronically entered using the "Draw" feature of your regular signature. E-Signature is considered legally binding and represents agreement of terms. For additional support and return Email: Whitneytherapy@yahoo.com