



INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and ours) to participate in in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let us know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between us.

Decision to Meet Face-to-Face

We have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, we may require that we meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will talk about it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if we believe it is necessary, we may determine that we return to telehealth for everyone's well-being.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, we will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by insurance companies and applicable law, so that is an issue we may also need to discuss.

Risks of Opting for In-Person Services

You understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service. You also recognize that your decision to come into the office may be putting our staff, clients, and all of our families at increased risk to exposure to the virus.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, SoulSpring Counseling staff, our families, and other clients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting / returning to a telehealth arrangement. Your signature at the end of this document indicates that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will *only* keep your in-person appointment if you are free of the following symptoms: fever over 100F, cough, or shortness of breath.
- You will take your temperature before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms of the coronavirus such as shortness of breath or cough, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. You may contact the office directly at (561) 463-3078 to change your appointment to telehealth, either maintaining the original date/time, or rescheduling if needed. If you wish to cancel for reason of having COVID symptoms, we won't charge you our normal cancellation fee.

- You will wait in your car until no earlier than 5 minutes before our appointment time.
- You will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building.
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and therapy rooms. For example, you won't move chairs or sit where we have signs asking you not to sit.
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the wait room.
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with staff.
- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands.
- If you are bringing your child, you will make sure that your child follows all of these sanitation and distancing protocols.
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID. This includes, but is not limited to: wearing masks in public, washing hands and using hand sanitizer frequently, maintaining social distancing recommendations, limiting contact with persons which may increase your exposure to the virus, and avoiding unnecessary travel.
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let our staff know.
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let SoulSpring Counseling staff know and we will then begin / resume treatment via telehealth.
- You will agree to only telehealth service appointments if you have traveled within the past 14 days.
- If you work, or if any member of your household works, in a high risk profession or environment, you will let us know so we can take appropriate precautions for ourselves and our other clients. These professions or environments include, but are not limited to: healthcare settings treating patients testing or presumed positive for COVID, lab settings which directly handle specimen samples being tested for coronavirus, first responder and medical transport personnel, mortuary settings and services. Due to the high risk of your exposure to the virus, we may require sessions with you to be held through telehealth only until it is reasonably safe for you to enter into the office.

Please note there are certain pre-existing conditions which suggest *you* would be safer using telehealth services. These include but are not limited to: 65 years of age or older, immunocompromised status, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, lung disease, cancer, renal failure, liver disease, or pregnancy. These conditions will not preclude us from seeing you in the office. For your own safety, if you have one or more of these conditions, you may want to temporarily choose telehealth as the preferred method of service delivery.

SoulSpring Counseling may change the above precautions if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will talk about any necessary changes.

Our Commitment to Minimize Exposure

SoulSpring Counseling has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office and we have posted our efforts via social media and in the office. Please let us know if you have questions about these efforts. Please see attached document outlining our commitment to safety.

If You or Your Therapist Is Sick

You understand that SoulSpring Counseling is committed to keeping you, our staff, our families, and all of our clients safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and your therapist believes that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, we will have to require you to leave the office immediately. We can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate.

If a SoulSpring Counseling staff member tests positive for the coronavirus, you will be notified as soon as possible through phone so that you can take appropriate precautions. You may see an alternative SoulSpring Counseling therapist either in person or via telehealth at your normal rate until your primary therapist is medically cleared to return to work.

Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, SoulSpring Counseling may be required by the local health authorities that you have been in the office. If we have to report this, we will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for your visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that we may do so without an additional signed release.

Informed Consent

This agreement supplements the general informed consent and the Telehealth informed consent agreements that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

Client

Date

Therapist

Date