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**INFORMED CONSENT FOR TELEHEALTH FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY**

(REQUIRED IN THE EVENT TELEHEALTH IS NECESSARY)

This form contains important information related to the use of telehealth services while conducting psychotherapy and consultation with Christen Scozzafave, LCSW.

**Benefits and Risks of Telehealth for Psychotherapy**

Telehealth refers to providing psychotherapy services remotely using telecommunications technologies such as video conferencing, telephone or other internet media. Benefits of telehealth include:

* The ability for the client and clinician to be in different physical locations.
* Convenience
* Efficiency
* Ensuring continuity of care during times of emergency or when needed by client or clinician.

Telehealth does require technical competence. Although there are benefits of telehealth, it is important to be aware of risks that are present. Risks of telehealth include:

* Confidentiality: Christen Scozzafave, LCSW will make best efforts to ensure your privacy through the availability of HIPAA compliant technology with high encryption. Laws that protect the confidentiality of your medical information apply to telehealth services, as does the Christen Scozzafave, LCSW consent form to notify clients of policies and practices to protect Protected Health Information (PHI). However, the transmission of information could be disrupted or distorted by technical failures or access by unauthorized persons to the session and stored data. It is recommended you find a private location for your telehealth session and take reasonable steps to ensure the security of your communication (e.g. privacy, secured internet access, etc.).
* Issues related to technology: It is important to understand technology may unexpectedly stop working during a session for various reasons. This could interrupt or delay a session. We will work together to identify backup plans should technology for telehealth fail or not be available.

* Efficacy: Most research shows that telehealth is nearly as effective as in-person psychotherapy, but may be experienced differently than face-to-face services. Results cannot be guaranteed, as with all forms of psychotherapy.
* Crisis management and intervention: Telehealth for psychotherapy will not replace emergency services. If you are experiencing a crisis or emergency, call 911 or proceed to the nearest emergency room. Christen Scozzafave, LCSW, will work with you to develop an emergency response plan to address potential crisis situations that may arise during or in between telehealth services.

**Technology**

To engage in telehealth services, you will need access a computer, mobile device or phone that supports platforms used by Christen Scozzafave, LCSW for telehealth services.

**Fees**

The same fee rates will apply for telehealth for psychotherapy as in-person psychotherapy. However, insurance or other managed care providers may not cover sessions that are conducted via telehealth. Please contact your insurance plan prior to engaging in telehealth sessions to verify coverage for services. If services are not covered by insurance, Christen Scozzafave, LCSW will work with you to ensure continuity of care.

**Records**

The telepsychology sessions shall not be recorded in any way unless agreed to in writing by mutual consent.

**Informed Consent**

This agreement is intended as a supplement to the general informed consent (welcome letter) that was agreed to at the outset of your treatment and does not amend any of the terms of that agreement. You have the right to withdraw consent for telehealth services for psychotherapy at any time; please notify Christen Scozzafave, LCSW in writing should you choose to withdraw consent.

Your signature below indicates agreement with its terms and conditions.

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Client Date

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Christen Scozzafave, LCSW Date