

Notice of Privacy Practices

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION
ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND
HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.
PLEASE REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.**

Your health record contains personal information about you and your health. This information, which may identify you and relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services, is referred to as Protected Health Information (“PHI”). This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how I may use and disclose your PHI in accordance with applicable law. It also describes your rights regarding how you may gain access to and control your PHI.

I am required by law to maintain the privacy of PHI and to provide you with notice of my legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI. I am required to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices. I reserve the right to change the terms of my Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. Any new Notice of Privacy Practices will be effective for all PHI that I maintain at that time. I will provide you with a copy of the revised Notice of Privacy Practices by posting a copy on my website, sending a copy to you in the mail upon request, or providing one to you at your next appointment.

HOW I MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

For Treatment. Your PHI may be used and disclosed by those who are involved in your care for the purpose of providing, coordinating, or managing your health care treatment and related services. This includes consultation with other providers, clinical supervisors, or consultation team members. I may disclose PHI to any other consultant only with your authorization.

For Payment. I may use or disclose PHI so that I can receive payment for the treatment of services provided to you. This will only be done with your authorization. Examples of payment-related activities include: making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, processing claims with your insurance carrier, reviewing services provided to you to determine medical necessity, or undertaking utilization review activities. Whenever possible, only the minimum necessary information will be communicated to the carrier. We have no control over, nor knowledge about, what insurance companies do with the information they obtain, nor can we limit who has access to this information. You should be aware that submitting a mental health invoice for reimbursement carries a certain amount of risk of confidentiality, privacy, or to future capacity to obtain health or life insurance. If it becomes necessary to use collection processes due to lack of payment for services, I will only disclose the minimum amount of PHI necessary for purposes of collection.

For Health Care Operations. I may use or disclose, as needed, your PHI in order to support my business activities, including, but not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee

review activities, reminding you of appointments, to provide information about treatment alternatives or other health related benefits and services, licensing, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. For example, I may share your PHI with third parties that perform various business activities (e.g., billing or typing services) provided I have a written contract with the business that requires it to safeguard the privacy of your PHI. For training or teaching purposes PHI will be disclosed only with your authorization, with identifying information removed.

Required by Law. Under the law, I must make disclosures of your PHI to you upon your request. I may also be required to provide psychotherapy records and/or testimony in certain legal matters: for instance, if you place your mental status at issue in litigation initiated by you. In addition, I must make disclosures to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of investigating or determining my compliance with the requirements of the Privacy Rule.

Applicable law and ethical standards permit me to disclose information about you without your authorization only in a limited number of other situations. The types of uses and disclosures that may be made without your authorization are those that are:

- **Required by law, such as the mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect, or mandatory government agency audits or investigations (such as the Board of Psychology or health department)**
- **Required by court order**
- **Necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public. If information is disclosed to prevent or lessen a serious threat, it will be disclosed to a person or persons reasonably able to prevent or lessen the threat, including the target of the threat.**
- **Emergencies**
- **National security or law enforcement**
- **Judicial and administrative proceedings**

I may use or disclose your information to family members who are directly involved in your treatment with your **verbal** permission. All other uses and disclosures not specifically permitted by applicable law will be made only with your **written** authorization, which may be revoked.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PHI

You have the following rights regarding your personal PHI maintained by my office. To exercise any of these rights, please submit your request in writing to Kari Wolman Killianey, Psy.D., 617 Veterans Blvd., Ste. 107, Redwood City, CA 94063:

- **Right of Access to Inspect and Copy.** You have the right, which may be restricted only in exceptional circumstances, to inspect and copy PHI that may be used to make decisions about your care. Your right to inspect and copy PHI will be restricted only in those situations where there is compelling evidence that access would cause serious harm to you. I may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee for copies.

- **Right to Amend.** If you feel that the PHI we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask me to amend the information, although I am not required to agree to the amendment.
- **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request an accounting of certain of the disclosures that I make of your PHI. I may charge you a reasonable fee if you request more than one accounting in any 12-month period.
- **Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the use or disclosure of your PHI for treatment, payment, or health care operations. I am not required to agree to your request.
- **Right to Request Confidential Communication.** You have the right to request that I communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location.
- **Right to a Copy of this Notice.** You have the right to a copy of this Notice.
- **Right to Electronic Transactions Standards.** I will obtain your permission before contacting you via email or text message.

COMPLAINTS:

If you have any questions about this notice or any complaints about my privacy practices, please contact: Kari Wolman Killianey, Psy.D., 617 Veterans Blvd., Ste. 107, Redwood City, CA 94063; 510-798-5513. If, in your opinion, I may have violated your privacy rights, or if you object to a decision I made about access to your PHI, you are entitled to file a written complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, or by calling (202) 619-0257. **I will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.**