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IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to conduct in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions; this is 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, I 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 I believe it is necessary, I 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, I will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the 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).

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, me, our families, and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting or returning to a telehealth arrangement.

You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free:

If you have any symptoms of the coronavirus, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. If you cancel due to COVID-19 symptoms I won't charge you the normal cancellation fee.

You should not be seen in-person if:

- you have traveled internationally or been to a COVID-19 hotspot within the last 14 days;
- have any symptoms including: fever of 100 degrees or greater; cough; difficulty breathing; sore throat; loss of taste or smell;

--have had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

--have compromised immune systems and/or chronic diseases that leave you at risk.

You will wait in your car or outside until our appointment time; please do not come early.

You will use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter and when you leave (available in my office).

You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and therapy room.

You will wear a mask in all common areas of the building and office suite (I will too).

We will discuss wearing masks in my office once we are seated, and the decision will depend on what you have been doing—if you are going out and about, you will need to wear a mask during our sessions; if you are isolating at home, you may not have to wear a mask during our sessions. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

We will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands).

You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands. There is hand sanitizer in my office next to the couch.

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, and if:

--you are exposed to others who are infected;

--your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond those with whom you live);

--a resident of your home or you test positive for the infection;

you will immediately let me know and we will then begin or resume treatment via telehealth.

I 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.

If You or I Are Sick

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

If I test positive for the coronavirus, I will notify you so that you can take appropriate precautions.

Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, I may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If I have to report this, I will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits.

Informed Consent

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreement that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you understand that there is still a potential risk of exposure and that you agree to the safety protocols outlined above in order to engage in in-person services.

Client

Date

Parent, if client under 18

Date

Catherine M. Malkin, Ph.D.

Date

Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic

My office is taking the following precautions to protect our clients and help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Seating in the waiting room and in my office has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing.

We wear masks in common areas and sit more than 7 feet apart in my office.

Restroom soap dispensers are maintained and everyone is encouraged to wash their hands. Bathroom code is 7100.

Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is available at the reception counter and in my office.

We schedule appointments at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting room and permit disinfecting in between client sessions.

We ask all patients to wait in their cars or outside until their appointment time.

Pens and other areas that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized after each use. Better still—bring your own pen and paper!

Physical contact is not permitted.

Tissues and trash bins are easily accessed. Trash is disposed of on a frequent basis.

Common areas are thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day and all magazines and toys have been removed.