

ILLINOIS NOTICE FORM

Notice of Psychologist's Policies and Practices to Protect the Privacy of Your Health Information

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

I. Uses and Disclosures for Treatment, Payment and Healthcare Operations.

I may use or disclose your protected health information (PHI) for treatment, payment and healthcare operations purposes with your written authorization. To help clarify these terms, here are some definitions:

- “**PHI**” refers to information in your health record that could identify you.
- “**Treatment, Payment and Healthcare Operations**”
 - ❖ **Treatment** is when I provide, coordinate or manage your health care and other services related to your health care. An example of treatment would be when I consult with another health care provider, such as your family physician or another psychologist.
 - ❖ **Payment** is when I obtain reimbursement for your health care. Examples of payment are when I disclose your PHI to your health insurer to obtain reimbursement for your health care or to determine eligibility or coverage.
 - ❖ **Health Care Operations** are activities that relate to the performance and operation of my practice. Examples of health care operations are quality assessment and improvement activities, business-related matters such as audits and administrative services and case management and care coordination.
- “**Use**” applies only to activities within our practice group such as sharing, employing, applying, utilizing, examining and analyzing information that identifies you.
- “**Disclosure**” applies to activities outside of our practice group such as releasing, transferring or providing access to information about you to other parties.
- “**Authorization**” is your written permission to disclose confidential mental health information. All authorizations to disclose must be on a specific legally required form.

II Other Uses and Disclosures Requiring Authorization

I may use or disclose PHI for purposes outside of treatment, payment or health care operations when your appropriate authorization is obtained. In those instances when I am asked for information for purposes outside of treatment, payment or health care operations, I will obtain an authorization before releasing your Psychotherapy Notes. “*Psychotherapy Notes*” are notes I have made about our conversation during a private, group, joint or family counseling session, which I have kept separate from the rest of your record. These notes are given a greater degree of protection than PHI.

▪ I will also obtain an authorization from you before using or disclosing PHI in a way that is not described in this Notice. You may revoke all such authorizations of PHI or Psychotherapy Notes at any time, provided each revocation is in writing. You may not revoke an authorization to the extent that (1) I have relied on that authorization; or (2) if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage, the law provides the insurer the right to contest the claim under the policy.

III Uses and Disclosures without Authorization

I may use or disclose PHI without your consent or authorization in the following circumstances:

- *Child Abuse* – If I have reasonable cause to believe a child known to me in my professional capacity may be an abused child or a neglected child, I must report this belief to the appropriate authorities.
- *Adult and Domestic Abuse* – If I have reason to believe that an individual (who is protected by state law) has been abused, neglected or financially exploited, I must report this belief to the appropriate authorities.
- *Health Oversight Activities* – I may disclose protected health information regarding you to a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law, including licensure or disciplinary actions.
- *Judicial and Administrative Proceedings* – If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information by any party about your evaluation, diagnosis and treatment and the records thereof, such information is privileged under state law, and I must not release such information without a court order. I can release the information directly to you upon your request. Information about all other psychological services also is privileged and cannot be released without your authorization or court order. The privilege does not apply when you are being evaluated for a third party or where the evaluation is court ordered. You must be informed in advance if this is the case.
- *Serious Threat to Health or Safety* – If you communicate to me a specific threat of imminent harm against another individual or if I believe that there is a clear, imminent risk of physical or mental injury being inflicted against another individual, I may make disclosures that I believe are necessary to protect that individual from harm. If I believe that you present an imminent

- serious risk of physical or mental injury or death to yourself, I may make disclosures I consider necessary to protect you from harm.
- *Worker's Compensation* – I may disclose protected health information regarding you as authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to worker's compensation or other similar programs, established by law, that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness without regard to fault.
 - *Other Allowances* – When the use and disclosure without consent or authorization is allowed under other sections of Section 164.512 of the Privacy Rule and the state's confidentiality law. This includes certain narrowly-defined disclosures to law enforcement agencies, to a health oversight agency (such as HHS or a state department of health), to a coroner or medical examiner, for public health purposes relating to disease or FDA-regulated products, or for specialized government functions such as fitness for military duties, eligibility for VA benefits, and national security and intelligence.

IV Patient's Rights and Psychologist's Duties

Patients' Rights:

- *Right to Request Restrictions* – You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of protected health information. However, I am not required to agree to a restriction you request.
- *Right to Receive Confidential Communications by Alternative Means and at Alternative Locations* – You have the right to request and receive confidential communications of PHI by alternative means and at alternative locations. (For example, you may not want a family member to know that you are seeing me. At your request, I will send your bills to another address.)
- *Right to Inspect and Copy* – You have the right to inspect or obtain a copy (or both) of PHI in my mental health and billing records used to make decisions about you for as long as the PHI is maintained in the record and Psychotherapy Notes. At your request, I will discuss with you the details of the request for access process.
- *Right to Amend* – You have the right to request an amendment of PHI for as long as the PHI is maintained in the record. I may deny your request. At your request, I will discuss with you the details of the amendment process.
- *Right to Accounting* – You generally have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of PHI. At your request, I will discuss with you the details of the accounting process.
- *Right to a Paper Copy* – You have the right to obtain a paper copy of the notice from me upon request, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically.
- *Right to Restrict Disclosures When You Have Paid for Your Care Out-of-Pocket* – You have the right to restrict certain disclosures of PHI to a health plan when you pay out-of-pocket in full for my services.
- *Right to Be Notified if there is a Breach of Your Unsecured PHI* – You have a right to be notified if (a) there is a breach [a use or disclosure of your PHI in violation of the HIPAA Privacy Rule] involving your PHI; (b) that PHI has not been encrypted to government standards; and (c) my risk assessment fails to determine that there is low probability that your PHI has been compromised.
- *Right to Opt Out of Fundraising Communications* – You have a right to decide that you would not like to be included in fundraising communication that I may send out.

Psychologists' Duties:

- I am required by law to maintain the privacy of PHI and to provide you with a notice of my legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI.
- I reserve the right to change the privacy policies and practices described in this notice. Unless I notify you of such changes, however, I am required to abide by the terms currently in effect.
- If I revise my policies and procedures, I will notify you as long as you are a continuing client. These procedures will be available to you "in session" with your counselor.

V Complaints

If you are concerned that I have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision I made about access to your records, you may contact CDPCC Executive Director or CDPCC Director of Counseling Services at 630-752-9750.

You may also send a written complaint to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The person listed above can provide you with the appropriate address upon request.

VI Effective Date, Restrictions and Changes to Private Policy

This updated notice is in effect as of September 23, 2013.