

Patient Information and Consent Form for Teletherapy

Introduction:

Teletherapy is the delivery of psychological services using interactive audio and visual electronic systems where the clinician and the patient are not in the same physical location. The interactive electronic systems used in teletherapy incorporate network and software security protocols (encryption) to protect the confidentiality of patient information and audio and visual data.

Potential Risks with teletherapy:

As with any healthcare service, there may be potential risks associated with the use of teletherapy. The risks include, but may not be limited to:

- Information transmitted may not be sufficient (e.g., poor resolution of video) to allow for appropriate psychological decision making by your provider. Your provider may not be able to provide psychological treatment using interactive electronic equipment nor provide for or arrange for emergency care that may be required.
- Delays in psychological evaluation and treatment may occur due to deficiencies or failures of the equipment
- Security protocols can fail, (although extremely unlikely) causing a breach of privacy of confidential psychological information
- A lack of access to all the information that might be available in a face to face visit but not in a teletherapy session may result in errors in psychological judgment.

Alternatives to the use of teletherapy:

- Traditional face to face sessions with a local provider

Confidentiality Standards required for teletherapy:

- During a teletherapy health session, both locations shall be considered a patient examination room regardless of a room's intended use
- Both sites shall be appropriately chosen to provide audio and visual privacy.
- Rooms shall be designated private for the duration of the session with the Provider and no unauthorized access shall be permitted
- Both sites shall take every precaution to ensure the privacy of the consult and the confidentiality of the patient. All persons in the exam room at both sites shall be identified to all participants prior to the consultation and the patient's permission shall be obtained for any visitors or clinicians to be present during the session.
- HIPAA confidentiality requirements apply the same for teletherapy as for face-to-face consultations.

Client Rights:

- The laws that protect the privacy and confidentiality of psychological information also apply to teletherapy.

- Video conferencing technology used by Gersh, Hartson, Payne, Hoffman and Associates, PC is encrypted to prevent unauthorized access to private psychological information
- Client has the right to withhold or withdraw consent to the use of the teletherapy during the course of care at any time. Withdrawal of consent will not affect any future care of treatment.
- Gersh, Hartson, Payne, Hoffman and Associates Providers have the right to withhold or withdraw consent for the use of teletherapy during the course of care at any time.
- Rules and Regulations which apply to the practice of psychotherapy in the state of Iowa also apply to teletherapy.

Client Responsibilities:

- Will inform provider if any other person can hear or see any part of our session before the session begins. The provider will inform client if any other person can hear or see any part of the session before the session begins.
- Third-parties may be required to join in the meeting with the provider and client to provide technical support. Client may be asked to interact with the technical support person on camera in order to fix the problem. If client declines this request and Provider's equipment is rendered unusable for the video conferencing, client may forfeit the option to use teletherapy.
- Client, not Gersh, Hartson, Payne, Hoffman and Associates PC, is responsible for the configuration of equipment on the client's computer/phone which is used for teletherapy. It is client's responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of all electronic equipment before session begins. Client may need to contact a designated third party (Zoom.us) for technical support to determine computer's readiness for teletherapy prior to beginning teletherapy session with Provider.
- Must be a resident of the state of Iowa to be eligible for teletherapy services from Gersh, Hartson, Payne, Hoffman and Associates, PC.

By accepting the invitation to a Teletherapy meeting, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the information provided regarding teletherapy, have discussed with your Provider and all questions have been answered to satisfaction.

By accepting the invitation to a Teletherapy meeting, you are giving informed consent for the use of teletherapy by Gersh, Harston, Payne, Hoffman and Associates, PC, for the course of diagnosis and treatment.

By accepting this invitation to a Teletherapy meeting, you are also giving consent for Gersh, Hartson, Payne, Hoffman and Associates, PC to bill your health insurance for Teletherapy.