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Consent for Returning to In-Person Psychological Services

This Consent for Returning to In-Person Psychological Services is a supplement to the general informed consent that we agreed to at the outset of our clinical work together. Please read this document carefully, and let me know if you have any questions.

The threat of COVID-19 is ongoing throughout the United States. As a way to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19, my practice had transitioned to providing most services via telecommunications technology. Use of telecommunications technology reduces the need for persons to come into close contact with each other or to be in areas where exposure to COVID-19 may occur. However, in some situations, teletherapy services may not be adequate, and in-person services may be more appropriate.

I have determined that in-person services are appropriate at this time for your situation for because either you have been fully vaccinated and/or your risk of contracting COVID-19 has significantly diminished.

The decision about whether to engage in in-person services is based on current conditions and guidelines, which may change at any time. It is possible that a return to remote services will be necessary at some point based on consideration of health and safety issues. Such a decision will be made in consultation with you, but I will make the final determination based on a careful weighing of the risks and applicable regulations.

It is also important to consider that, although insurance reimbursement for teletherapy services may have been mandated during the COVID-19 pandemic, such mandates may no longer be in effect, and teletherapy may no longer be reimbursed by your insurance company.

In order for me to provide you with in-person services, the following protocols must be followed by patients/clients and providers: Social distancing requirements must be

met, meaning that you must maintain a six-foot distance from others while in any public area of my office suite.

- Clients and providers will be required to wear face coverings or masks while in the any public part of my office suite. If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided to you.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the office entrance and must be used upon entering the office.
- There will be no physical contact with others in the office.
- You will be asked to wait in your vehicle or outside the office until you receive a text, email, or phone call from me indicating that you can enter the office.
- You agree not to present for in-person services if you have a fever, shortness of breath, coughing, or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to another person who is showing signs of infection or has confirmed COVID-19 within the past two weeks. **The usual policies of charging for missed sessions with less than 24 hours notice are suspended during the current situation.**
- If you are bringing a child or other dependent in for services, you agree to ensure that both you and your child/dependent follow all of these protocols.

As COVID-19 regulations continue to evolve, I may become legally required at some point to disclose that you and I have been in contact, especially if either of us were to test positive or show signs of COVID-19 infection. If I am legally compelled to disclose information, I will inform you and will only provide the minimum necessary information (e.g., your name and the dates of our contact) required by law.

We remain committed to following state and federal guidelines and to adhering to prevailing professional healthcare standards to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in our offices. Despite our careful attention to sanitization, social distancing, and other protocols, there is still a chance that you will be exposed to COVID-19 in our office. If, at any point, you prefer to stop in-person services or to consider transitioning to remote services, please let me know.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand that there is still a potential risk of exposure and that you agree to follow the safety protocols outlined above in order to engage in in-person services.

Patient/Client

Date

Psychologist

Date