

Bay Area Christian Counseling
Teletherapy Agreement & Informed Consent

1. You understand that “teletherapy” includes consultation, treatment, transfer of medical data, emails, telephone conversations, and education using interactive audio, video, or data communications. You also understand that teletherapy/coaching also involves the communication of your medical/mental health information, both orally and visually.
2. Unless we explicitly agree otherwise, our teletherapy exchange is strictly confidential. Any information you choose to share with me will be held in the strictest confidence. Just like my face- to-face clients, I will not release your information to anyone without your prior approval unless I am required to do so by law.
3. You understand that our teletherapy services are furnished in the state of Maryland, (USA), and the services I provide are governed by the laws of that state.
4. You have the right to withdraw or withhold consent from teletherapy services at any time. You also have the right to terminate treatment at any time.
5. You understand there are risks and consequences with teletherapy services including, but not limited to, the possibility, despite reasonable efforts on my part, that: the transmission of your medical information could be disrupted or distorted by technical failures; the transmission of your information could be intercepted by unauthorized persons, and/or the electronic storage of your medical information could be accessed by unauthorized persons.
6. In addition, you understand teletherapy based services and care may not be as complete as traditional face-to-face services. While teletherapy is a great way to get help with many of life’s problems, overwhelming and potentially dangerous challenges are best met with face-to-face professional support. You understand teletherapy is neither a universal substitute, nor the same as face-to-face psychotherapy. If I believe your needs would best be served by a another professional, you will be referred to a professional who can provide such services in your area. Finally, you understand there are potential risks and benefits associated with any form of psychotherapy, and despite my efforts or the efforts of any such provider, your condition may not improve, and in some cases may even get worse.
7. You understand you may benefit from teletherapy, but that results cannot be guaranteed or assured.

8. You understand and accept teletherapy does not provide emergency services. If you are experiencing an emergency situation you understand the protocol would be to call 911 or proceed to the nearest hospital emergency room for help. If you are having suicidal thoughts or making plans to harm yourself, you may also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1- 800-273-TALK (8255) for free 24 hour hotline support.
9. You will be responsible for the following: (1) providing the computer and/or necessary telecommunications equipment and internet access for your teletherapy sessions, (2) securing or encrypting protected health information (PHI) transmitted to or stored on your computer/telecommunications device, and (3) arranging a location with sufficient lighting and privacy that is free from distractions or intrusions for your teletherapy sessions.
10. You understand while email may be used as a form of communication with us, confidentiality of emails cannot be guaranteed due to complexities and abnormalities involved with the Internet, including, but not limited to, viruses, Trojans, worms, and other involuntary intrusions that have the ability to obtain and disseminate information you wish to keep private.
11. You have the right to access your medical information and copies of your medical records in accordance with HIPAA privacy rules and applicable state law.
12. If you reside out of your e-therapist's state of professional licensure, you understand and agree that you are soliciting the services of a professional outside of your state of residence. By doing this, you agree that the "point-of-service" of therapy is to occur in the therapist's state of professional licensure, and that you are using your computer/telecommunications device to virtually travel to that state. Hence, therapists are accountable to and agree to abide by the ethical and legal guidelines prescribed by their state of professional licensure. By agreeing to solicit the out-of-state therapist's services, you agree to these terms.

I have read and understand the information provided above. I have discussed it with my psychotherapist, and all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Signature of client (or parent/guardian/other authorized signatory) is required below:

Print name: _____

Date: _____