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Social Media Policy  
Effective 3/5/17

The following policy will serve as guide to therapist and client use of social media with the priority of ensuring protection of the confidentiality of every client in this practice.

I encourage you to address any questions or concerns about this policy when we meet.

Friending per Facebook, etc.

I will not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site. The purpose of avoiding such requests is not meant to in any way to minimize the importance or value of my relationship with a client, rather it is to clarify this relationship as a professional one and not a personal one and to reduce confusion or concern about the nature of contact between client and therapist. I intend that therapeutic work happen in the session, rather than in a public forum, and I want to reduce any concerns that I will be seeking or receiving information beyond the session.

Interaction Between Sessions with Email or Text

The most secure way to contact me between sessions is through the 17 Blue Line office number (740-592-5689,) either leaving a message on the answering machine or communicating with Karen White our Office Manager. I am aware the office telephone line can be busy frequently and it can be difficult to get through. If you would choose to use email or text to reach me more directly and rapidly, I want to remind you this is an insecure manner of communication which raises the possibility your confidentiality might be compromised. Your signature on this Policy, indicates you use these forms of contact with understanding and awareness of the inherent insecurity. These interactions may be documented in case notes and become part of your file.

Use of Search Engines

I will not use search engines to seek information about you. I am relying on our phone contacts, your disclosures on paperwork and verbalizations in sessions to develop an understanding of your psychological status, presenting problems and direction of treatment. In the event I am concerned for your safety and have not been able to reach you by our agreed upon modalities (phone, text or email,) I may attempt to contact a friend or significant other by whatever means is available. These attempts will be documented in your file and discussed in subsequent sessions with you.

Google Reader

I prefer to share articles and written information with you through handouts. I encourage you to bring to the session journal entries, articles or information you've encountered, rather than use google reader to share materials.

Business Review Sites

Please know I will not be using any business sites to solicit your evaluation of this practice or your experience. This would be unethical. I will not be responding to any review by you or anyone else about this practice on any business listing site.

If you have thoughts and/or feelings about your experience in therapy, I would appreciate that you share directly with me. Your reactions are an important part of the therapy process and can further your progress towards your therapeutic goals. It is entirely your right to share personal information, your decisions and content of therapy, publicly. Be aware, however, there may be unforeseen and unintended consequences.

If you feel I have been harmful or unethical and you hesitate to bring these concerns to me, the following Ohio licensing boards can be contacted in order to review my services to you:

Ohio State Board of Psychology  
Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts  
77 S. High Street, Suite 1830  
Columbus, OH 43215-6108  
614-466-8808

Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board  
50 West Broad Street, Suite 1075  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-466-0912

Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board  
Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Location Based Services

You may wish to be aware that location based service and use of GPS on your mobile phone may expose your attendance at this location in the event of repeated visits. If you check in from this office location to any of the sites such as Foursquare, Gowalia, Loopt, etc., or if you have a passive LBS app enabled on your phone, you may be exposing your location and your presence may be surmised. I do not list my practice as a check in location.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to review this Social Media Policy. Please bring your questions or concerns about any of these policies to my attention so that we can discuss them.

\_\_\_\_\_I have reviewed this policy and agree to adhere to these recommendations.

Client Signature

Date

(Policy adapted from (C) Keely Kolmes, Psy.D.-Social Media Policy-4/26/10 If you use my policy for training or education purposes, please cite me as the original author.)