

Grace Counseling Group

Addendum for Online Therapy

Consumer Information Regarding Online Psychotherapy

Notice to California Consumers Regarding Psychotherapy on the Internet

The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) would like to make the following recommendations to California consumers who choose to seek therapy or counseling over the Internet.

Individuals who provide psychotherapy or counseling, either in person, by telephone, or over the Internet, are required by law to be licensed. Licensing requirements vary by state. Individuals who provide psychotherapy or counseling to persons in California are required to be licensed in California. Such licensure permits the consumer to pursue recourse against the licensee should the consumer believe that the licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct.

- Be sure you are satisfied with the methods used to ensure your communications with and by the therapist will be confidential.
- Be sure you are aware of the risks and benefits of doing therapy, over the Internet or by any other means, so you can make an informed choice about the therapy or counseling to be provided.

According to Business and Professions Code Section 2290.5, prior to the delivery of health care via telehealth, the health care provider at the originating site shall verbally inform the patient that telehealth may be used and obtain verbal consent from the patient for this use. The verbal consent shall be documented in the patient's medical record. All laws regarding the confidentiality of health care information and a patient's right to his or her medical information shall apply to telehealth interactions.

"Telehealth" means the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient's health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.

(b) Prior to the delivery of health care via telehealth, the health care provider initiating the use of telehealth shall inform the patient about the use of telehealth and obtain verbal or written consent from the patient for the use of telehealth as an acceptable mode of delivering health care services and public health. The consent shall be documented.

GENERAL CONSENT TO DO THERAPY

5. I have read and fully understand these client policies and give my full informed consent.
6. I am applying for and consent to counseling, psychotherapy and diagnostic testing as prescribed by my therapist.
7. I agree that I will be responsible for the fee of _____ per session, which will be collected weekly.
8. Any appointment that I do not keep or cancel less than 24 hours in advanced, I will be charged for.

Client's Signature: _____

Effective Date: _____

Therapist Signature: _____

Effective Date: _____