



Therapeutic Time, Inc.

Limits of Confidentiality

Dr. Trisha Rich-Thurm

Licensed as a Clinical Psychologist PSY 24976,

Marriage & Family Therapist MFC 42603, & National Certified Counselor NCC 264935

Client's Name (Please Print): _____

In general, the privacy of all communications between a patient and a psychologist is protected by law, and I can only release information about our work to others with your written permission. But there are a few exceptions. Confidentiality is the hallmark of the therapeutic relationship! The law states that a client has the right to have information provided or shared during a psychotherapy session to remain private and cannot be shared without written or at time oral permission.

With this being said I must disclose that there are some exceptions to the right to privacy and they include:

- Suspected **Child Abuse** (anyone under the age of 18) or **Elder abuse** (anyone 65 years of age or older) will be reported to the appropriate authorities as required by law.
- **Serious threat of harm to oneself** where the client is not able to cooperate to ensure their safety and I am required to seek other resources of support to ensure safety. I may be obligated to seek hospitalization for a client or to contact family members or others who can help provide protection.
- **Serious threat of harm towards an identifiable victim** requires me to inform the police who the potential victim is to ensure safety is maintained.
- If called into a **Court of Law** by a *subpoena duces tecum* I will be required to testify and release information to the court or be held in Contempt of Court. In most legal proceedings, you have the right to prevent me from providing any information about your treatment. In some proceedings a judge may order my testimony if he/she determines that the issues demand it.
- All parents and legal guardians of the **child or adolescent** will have full access to records as according to the California state statutes and HIPPA regulations **unless** there is information regarding pregnancy, birth control, abortion, STD's or chemical dependency. These issues are protected and private information for adolescents.
- I may occasionally find it helpful to **consult with other professionals** about a case. During a consultation, I make every effort to avoid revealing the identity of my patient. The consultant is also legally bound to keep the information confidential. I will not tell you about these consultations unless I feel that it is important to our work together.
- **California Gun Violence Restraining Order Law** requires psychotherapist to report to local law enforcement agency, within 24 hours, the identity of a person who made a serious threat of physical violence against a reasonably identifiable victim or victims, shall not have in his or her possession or under his or her custody or control, or receive or purchase, or attempt to receive or purchase any firearms whatsoever or any other deadly weapon for a period of five years.

While this written summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, it is important that we discuss any questions or concerns that you may have. I will be happy to discuss these issues with you if you need specific advice, but formal legal advice may be needed because the laws governing confidentiality are quite complex, and I am not an attorney. **I have read and understand the Limits of Confidentiality and agree to enter into services at this time.**

Client/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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