

TELEHEALTH INFORMED CONSENT

At San Tan Counseling we have closely been monitoring developments with COVID-19. When responding to an infectious disease, San Tan Counseling closely follows the recommendations and guidance made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state and county health departments. We are committed to providing quality service to you, our valued patients. As such, we have also explored the option to provide counseling via telehealth.

Our counselors now have many HIPAA compliant options for video and text-based counseling, even in low bandwidth areas. That makes it relatively simple to have online counseling for a safe, ethical, and legal online practice. Considering the current pandemic, **we are asking you to consider participating in your session either by telephone or via a HIPAA compliant video platform.**

Important Disclosures

It is important to inform you about the benefits and risks of telehealth at the outset of this level of a telehealth professional relationship.

- 1) Discussing limits on confidentiality is paramount. While telephone or video conferencing is a flexible alternative to meeting face-to-face, you should be aware of the potential risks. There are several situations that could compromise the confidentiality of the therapeutic conversation. For example, someone may listen in on the conversation, i.e. in the same room as the patient but outside the view of the camera. Thus, you should feel comfortable in the environment where you are receiving services and ensure your own privacy.
- 2) Discuss with your provider what strategies and resources will be used in the event of an interruption of services, either caused by technical difficulties or a potential medical emergency.
- 3) The appropriateness of providing therapy over the telephone or through video conferencing is something that should be continuously assessed throughout your treatment.

Informed Consent

Formerly, the law required patients to sign a telehealth specific written consent form prior to receiving any treatment via telehealth. In 2014, the law was amended to allow providers to secure consent for telehealth services the first time an appointment is made and removed the requirement that providers get consent prior to each telehealth session.

Please sign the following acknowledgments:

I have read the above document. I acknowledge that San Tan Counseling is committed to provide an environment compliant with CDC and health recommendations. I have read the Disclosures and acknowledge any limitations and recommendations regarding telehealth.

I would like to schedule my sessions via telephone. Yes No

I would like to schedule my sessions via video. Yes No

I would like my counselor to contact me to set up our video connection prior to our session. Yes No

Patient Signature _____ Date: _____

Printed Name _____