

Cynthia Ezell, LMFT

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

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Notice of Privacy Practices

With the exception of certain specific exceptions described below, you have the absolute right to the confidentiality of your therapy. I cannot and will not tell anyone else what you have told me, or even that you are in therapy with me without your prior written permission.

The information provided by you during psychotherapy is legally confidential except as required by law. Release of information is controlled by you through written consent. Two exceptions provided for by law include information which leads the therapist to believe that eminent physical danger exists to the patient or to others due to behavior by the patient, and information regarding child abuse. Under the provision of the Health Care Information Act of 1992, I may legally speak to another health care provider or a member of your family about you without your prior consent in an emergency situation. I will always act so as to protect your privacy even if you do give me a written release. You may direct me to share information with whomever you chose and you can change your mind and revoke that permission at any time.

You are also protected under the provision of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA). This law insures the confidentiality of all electronic transmission of information about you. Electronic mail is not a secure means of communication, and therefore I prefer to do all scheduling of appointments via telephone.

Under HIPPA, you have a right to the following;

- *to inspect and or obtain copies of your records
- *to request an amendment to your record
- *to request restriction on the disclosure of your protected health information
- *to ask for an accounting of disclosures

The following are **legal exceptions** to your right to confidentiality

- If I believe you may cause serious harm or death to yourself or another person, and I believe you have the intent and ability to carry out this threat in the very near future.
- If I have reason to suspect ongoing physical, sexual, or emotional child, elder, or dependent abuse
- If a court of law issues a Court Order to release information