

CONSENT FOR TELEHEALTH

TELEMEDICINE INFORMED CONSENT

Telemedicine is the use of electronic/internet/data transmissions to treat the needs of a client. This means the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, transfer of medical data, and education using interactive audio, video, or data communications. Examples of these include, but are not limited to: e-mail, cell/mobile/VoIP calls, voicemail, text messaging, videoconferencing, faxes, and other non-face-to-face interactions. All laws and regulations governing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)/ Protected Health Information (PHI) apply to telemedicine.

You (client) agree that you have been verbally informed in addition to this written informed consent regarding the use of Telemedicine as a means of facilitating my therapy sessions.

You retain the option to withhold or withdraw consent to telemedicine at any time without affecting the right to future care or treatment nor risking the loss or withdrawal of any program benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled. In the event that you wish to revoke your authorization for telemedicine, you will document that in writing and submit it to the office of Angelica Romero, LCSW, LLC. You further understand that in the event you use telemedicine after this revocation and fail to inform your clinician of your revocation, then such revocation shall become null and void and a new revocation will be required.

BENEFITS & RISKS OF TELEMEDICINE

As with any modality for therapy, there are both benefits and risks to telemedicine.

BENEFITS

- Telemedicine affords you (client) the ability to be treated from any location at any time.
- More options are available for maintaining or rescheduling an appointment, including conducting sessions via telephone or videoconferencing, which fosters a regular and consistent program of therapeutic care, and avoids paying for services undelivered.

HIPPA RISKS

- The office of Angelica Romero is required by HIPAA to inform you that absolute security via the internet cannot be guaranteed and could be accessed by unauthorized persons.
- You (client) understand that this office will use their best efforts to conceal personal information and abide by HIPAA/PHI standards.
- Likewise, you will do your part to uphold the security of your information by password protecting your devices and determining who has access to your

computer and electronic information from your location. You will only communicate through a computer that you know is safe, i.e. wherein confidentiality can be ensured. You will be sure to fully exit all online counseling sessions and emails. You will delete emails and text messages from your phone and/or other electronic devices. Furthermore, there is the risk of being overheard by anyone near you and you will place yourself in a private area, not open to others' intrusion.

- The risks involved with telemedicine include the potential release of private information due to the complexities and abnormalities involved with the Internet. Viruses, Trojans, and other involuntary intrusions have the ability to grab and release information you may desire to keep private. This office has never experienced any problems with security being breached and should this office ever determine that your private health information has been compromised, this office will notify you that an unsecured breach has occurred.
- You understand that there are no universal protocols or protective standards in the use of telemedicine and you will hold this office, Angelica Romero, and its employees harmless and free from liability in the event you use this method of communication.
- You understand that there are other risks that we may not fully be aware of that can occur with or without our knowledge.

THERAPEUTIC LIMITATIONS

- You (client) understand that phone and email sessions have limitations compared to in-person sessions, among those being the lack of "personal" face-to-face interactions, the lack of visual and audio cues in the therapy process, and the fact that some insurance companies will not cover this type of therapy. You further understand your treatment could be disrupted or distorted by technical failures.
- You understand that telephone/online psychotherapy with Angelica Romero is not a substitute for medication under the care of a psychiatrist or doctor.
- You understand that online and telephone therapy is not appropriate if you are experiencing a crisis or having suicidal or homicidal thoughts. If a life-threatening crisis should occur, you agree to contact a crisis hotline, call 911, or go to a hospital emergency room
- You also understand that this office follows the laws and professional regulations of the state of Florida (USA) and the psychotherapy treatment always will be considered to take place in Florida (USA). Typically, Angelica Romero does not conduct online therapy with clients whose permanent domicile is located outside of her license jurisdiction.
- In addition, you understand that telehealth treatment is different from in-person therapy and that if Angelica Romero believes you would be better served by another form of psychotherapeutic services, such as in-person treatment, you will be referred to a therapist in your geographic area that can provide such services.
- You understand that while psychotherapeutic treatment of all kinds has been found to be effective in treating a wide range of mental disorders, personal, and relational issues, there is no guarantee that all treatment of all clients will be effective. Thus, you understand that while you may benefit from telehealth, results cannot be guaranteed or assured.

- In the event of disconnection, disruption, or other technical difficulties, you will attempt to reconnect to log back into your telehealth session online. If that does not work, you will await a telephone call by Angelica.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- You (client) will consider any time zone differences when scheduling your appointment.
- You understand there is to be no driving during your therapy sessions to ensure the safety of yourself and others. You will pull over if you are in transit and are scheduled to have a session with Angelica.
- You will make sure to have your computer/phone set up on a stable platform so your electronics, and therefore video, are still.
- You will treat your session no differently than in-person sessions and you will not multi-task so that you can give your full attention to your therapy.
- You will make sure that your computer/phone is fully charged, has a strong battery and strong internet connection to try to avoid technical difficulties.
- You will turn on your “Do not disturb” function if using your phone for telehealth. If you receive an incoming call or push notification it can break your connection, requiring us to end our call and must sign in all over again.

BY SIGNING BELOW I AM AGREEING THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

Client's Signature and Date