



832-303-3082

www.NewFocusCounseling.com

Mailing Address: 14781 Memorial Dr. #202, Houston, TX 77079

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INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

This document contains important information about your decision to begin/resume in-person services considering the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let your counselor know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement.

Decision to Meet Face-to-Face

You have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, your counselor may be required to meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, talk about it first and try to address any issues with your counselor. You understand that, if your counselor believes it is necessary, counseling sessions may return to telehealth for everyone's well-being. If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, your counselor will respect that decision, if it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so that is an issue you are encouraged to discuss with your insurance carrier.

Risks of Opting for In-Person Services

You understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, your counselor, your family, other clinicians, and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in starting/returning to a telehealth arrangement. Initial each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free.
- You will take your temperature before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms of the coronavirus, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth.
- You will wait in your car or outside [or in a designated safer waiting area] until no earlier than 5 minutes before your appointment time.
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy room. For example, you will not move chairs or sit where there are signs asking you not to sit.
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with your counselor or administration.
- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands.
- If you are bringing your child, you will make sure that your child follows sanitation and distancing protocols.
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID.



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- If you have a job that exposes you to other people who are infected, you will immediately let me, and office staff know.
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let your counselor and office administration know.
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let your counselor and administration and we will then begin/resume treatment via telehealth.

Your counselor may change the above precautions if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, you and your counselor will talk about any necessary changes.

My Commitment to Minimize Exposure

New Focus Counseling Alliance, Inc. has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office.

If You or Your Counselor Are Sick

You understand that your counselor is committed to keeping you, themselves, other clinicians, administration, and all families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and your counselor believes you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, your counselor will require you to leave the office immediately. You and your counselor can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate. If your counselor tests positive for the coronavirus, he/she will notify you if necessary so you can take appropriate precautions.

Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, your counselor may have to report this and will only provide the minimum information necessary and will not disclose the nature or reason for the counseling visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that your counselor may do so without an additional signed release.

Informed Consent

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreement that you and your counselor agreed to at the start of your work together. Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

Patient/Client

Date

Clinician

Date