

# Informed Consent for Psychotherapy

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### General Information

The therapeutic relationship is unique in that it is a highly personal and at the same time, a contractual agreement. Given this, it is important for us to reach a clear understanding about how our relationship will work, and what each of us can expect. This consent will provide a clear framework for our work together. Feel free to discuss any of this with me. Please read and indicate that you have reviewed this information and agree to it by filling in the checkbox at the end of this document.

### The Therapeutic Process

You have taken a very positive step by deciding to seek therapy. The outcome of your treatment depends largely on your willingness to engage in this process, which may, at times, result in considerable discomfort. Remembering unpleasant events and becoming aware of feelings attached to those events can bring on strong feelings of anger, depression, anxiety, etc. There are no miracle cures. I cannot promise that your behavior or circumstance will change. I can promise to support you and do my very best to understand you and repeating patterns, as well as to help you clarify what it is that you want for yourself.

### Confidentiality

The session content and all relevant materials to the client's treatment will be held confidential unless the client requests in writing to have all or portions of such content released to a specifically named person/persons. Limitations of such client held privilege of confidentiality exist and are itemized below:

1. If a client threatens or attempts to commit suicide or otherwise conducts him/her self in a manner in which there is a substantial risk of incurring serious bodily harm.
2. If a client threatens grave bodily harm or death to another person.
3. If the therapist has a reasonable suspicion that a client or other named victim is the perpetrator, observer of, or actual victim of physical, emotional or sexual abuse of children under the age of 18 years.
4. Suspicions as stated above in the case of an elderly person who may be subjected to these abuses.
5. Suspected neglect of the parties named in items #3 and # 4.
6. If a court of law issues a legitimate subpoena for information stated on the subpoena.

7. If a client is in therapy or being treated by order of a court of law, or if information is obtained for the purpose of rendering an expert's report to an attorney.

Occasionally I may need to consult with other professionals in their areas of expertise in order to provide the best treatment for you. Information about you may be shared in this context without using your name.

If we see each other accidentally outside of the therapy office, I will not acknowledge you first. Your right to privacy and confidentiality is of the utmost importance to me, and I do not wish to jeopardize your privacy. However, if you acknowledge me first, I will be more than happy to speak briefly with you, but feel it appropriate not to engage in any lengthy discussions in public or outside of the therapy office.

#### About the therapist

The Healing Sounds mission is to create a space full of creative therapeutic experiences to promote wellness, change behavior and improve quality of life for people of all ages, abilities and mental health needs. At Healing Sounds, our therapists use music therapy (<https://www.healingsoundsrva.com/music-therapy>), art therapy (<https://www.healingsoundsrva.com/art-therapy>), and counseling (<https://www.healingsoundsrva.com/counseling>) techniques to help you achieve personal growth and fulfillment. Therapists may utilize different approaches that involve creative arts materials.

Some therapists have training in EMDR and may discuss the use of reprocessing in session if appropriate.

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) methodology is a form of adaptive information processing which may help the brain unblock maladaptive material. It also appears that EMDR may avoid some of the long and difficult abreactive work often involved in the treatment of anxiety, panic attack, post-traumatic stress symptoms (such as intrusive thoughts, nightmares, and flashbacks), dissociative disorders, depression, phobias, identity crisis and other traumatic experiences. I have also been specifically advised of the following: (1) Distressing unresolved memories may be surface through the use of the EMDR procedure. (2) Some clients experience reactions during the treatment sessions that neither they nor the administering clinician may have anticipated, including but not limited to, high level of emotional or physical sensations. Subsequent to the treatment session, the processing of incidents and/or material may continue and dreams, memories, flashbacks, feelings. etc., may surface. (3) Those with limiting or special medical conditions (pregnancy, heart condition, ocular difficulties, etc.) should consult their medical professionals before participating in this therapeutic method. For some people, this method may result in sharper memory, for others fuzzier memory following the treatment. If you are involved in a legal case and need to testify, please discuss this with your therapist. Before commencing EMDR treatment, I have considered all of the above and I have obtained whatever additional input and/or professional advice I deemed necessary or appropriate.

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