



## Client Rights and Consent to Treatment

Client \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the undersigned, hereby attest that I have voluntarily entered into treatment, or give my consent for the minor or person under my legal guardianship mentioned above, at Metis Counseling. The rights, risks, and benefits associated with the treatment have been explained to me. I understand that the therapy may be discontinued at any time by either party. Metis Counseling encourages that this decision be discussed with the treating counselor. This will help facilitate a more appropriate plan for discharge.

**Nonvoluntarily Discharge from Treatment:** A client may be terminated from Metis Counseling nonvoluntarily. if: (A) the client exhibits physical violence, verbal abuse, carries weapons, or engages in illegal acts at Metis Counseling, and/or (B) the client refuses to comply with treatment recommendations, or does not make payment or payment arrangements in a timely manner.

**Client Notice of Confidentiality:** The confidentiality of patient records maintained by Metis Counseling is protected by federal and/or state law and regulations. Generally, counselors may not say to a person outside of Metis Counseling that a client is in therapy or disclose any information identifying a client as an alcohol or drug abuser unless: (1) the client consents in writing, (2) the disclosure is allowed by a court order, or (3) the disclosure is made to medical personnel in a medical emergency.

Violation of federal and/or state law and regulations by a treatment facility or provider is a crime. Suspected violations may be reported to appropriate authorities. Federal and/or state law and regulations do not protect any information about a crime committed by a client either at Metis Counseling against any person who works for the practice, or about any threat to commit such a crime. Federal law and regulations do not protect any information about suspected child (or vulnerable adult) abuse or neglect, or adult abuse from being reported under federal and/or state law to appropriate state or local authorities. It is Metis Counseling's duty to warn any potential victim when a significant threat of harm has been made. In the event of a client's death, the spouse or parents of a deceased client have a right to access their child's or spouse's records. Professional misconduct by a health care professional must be reported by other health care professionals, in which related client records may be released to substantiate disciplinary concerns. Parents or legal guardians of non-emancipated minor clients have the right to access the client's records. When fees are not paid in a timely manner, a collection agency will be given appropriate billing and financial information about the client, not clinical information. My signature below indicates that I have been given a copy of my rights regarding confidentiality.

I consent to treatment and agree to abide by the above-stated policies and agreements with Metis Counseling.

### OUR LEGAL DUTIES

State and federal laws require that we keep your medical records private. Such laws require that we provide you with this notice informing you of our privacy of information policies, your rights, and our duties. We are required to abide these policies until replaced or revised. We have the right to revise our privacy policies for all medical records, including records kept before policy changes were made. Any changes in this notice will be made available upon request before changes take place.

The contents of material disclosed to us in an evaluation, intake, or counseling session are covered by the law as private information. We respect the privacy of the information you provide us, and we abide by ethical and legal requirements of confidentiality and privacy of records.

### USE OF INFORMATION

Information about you may be used by the personnel associated with Metis Counseling for diagnosis, treatment planning, treatment, and continuity of care. We may disclose it to health care providers who provide you with treatment, such as doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, and mental health professionals or business associates affiliated with Metis Counseling, such as billing and consultation.

Both verbal information and written records about a client cannot be shared with another party without the written consent of the client or the client's legal guardian or personal representative. It is the policy of this clinic not to release any information about a client without a signed release of information except in certain emergency situations or exceptions in which client information can be disclosed to others without written consent. Some of these situations are noted below, and there may be other provisions provided by legal requirements.

### DUTY TO WARN AND PROTECT

When a client discloses intentions or a plan to harm another person or persons, the health care professional is required to warn the intended victim and report this information to legal authorities. In cases in which the client discloses or implies a plan for suicide, the health care professional is required to notify legal authorities and make reasonable attempts to notify the family of the client.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Health records may be released for the public interest and safety for public health activities, judicial and administrative proceedings, law enforcement purposes, serious threats to public safety, essential government functions, military, and when complying with worker's compensation laws.

**ABUSE**

If a client states or suggests that he or she is abusing a child or vulnerable adult, or has recently abused a child or vulnerable adult, or a child (or vulnerable adult) is in danger of abuse, the health care professional is required to report this information to the appropriate social service and/or legal authorities. If a client is the victim of abuse, neglect, violence, or a crime victim, and his or her safety appears to be at risk, we may share this information with law enforcement officials to help prevent future occurrences and capture the perpetrator.

**IN THE EVENT OF A CLIENT’S DEATH**

In the event of a client’s death, the spouse or parents of a deceased client have a right to access their child’s or spouse’s records.

**PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT**

Professional misconduct by a health care professional must be reported by other health care professionals. In cases in which a professional or legal disciplinary meeting is being held regarding the health care professional’s actions, related records may be released in order to substantiate disciplinary concerns.

**JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS**

Health care professionals are required to release records of clients when a court order has been placed.

**MINORS/GUARDIANSHIP**

Parents or legal guardians of non-emancipated minor clients have the right to access the client’s records.

**OTHER PROVISIONS**

When payment for services are the responsibility of the client, or a person who has agreed to providing payment, and payment has not been made in a timely manner, collection agencies may be utilized in collecting unpaid debts. The specific content of the services (e.g., diagnosis, treatment plan, progress notes, testing) is not disclosed. If a debt remains unpaid, it may be reported to credit agencies, and the client’s credit report may state the amount owed, the time frame, and the name of the clinic or collection source.

Insurance companies, managed care, and other third-party payers are given information that they request regarding services to the client. Information that may be requested includes type of services, dates / times of services, diagnosis, treatment plan, description of impairment, progress of therapy, and summaries.

Information about clients may be disclosed in consultations with other professionals in order to provide the best possible treatment. In such cases the name of the client, or any identifying information, is not disclosed. Clinical information about the client is discussed. Some progress notes and reports are dictated / typed within the clinic or by outside sources specializing in (and held accountable for) such procedures.

In the event the clinic or mental health professional must telephone the client for purposes such as appointment cancellations or reminders, or to give / receive other information, efforts are made to preserve confidentiality. Please notify us in writing where we may reach you by phone and how you would like us to identify ourselves. For example, you might request that when we phone you at home or work, we do not say the name of the clinic or the nature of the call but rather the mental health professional’s first name only. If this information is not provided to us (below), we will adhere to the following procedure when making phone calls: First we will ask to speak to the client (or guardian) without identifying the name of the clinic. If the person answering the phone asks for more identifying information, we will say that it is a personal call. We will not identify the clinic (to protect confidentiality). If we reach an answering machine or voice mail, we will follow the same guidelines.

I consent to treatment and agree to abide by the above-stated policies and agreements with Metis Counseling.

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Signature of Client / Legal Guardian

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Date

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Witness

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Date