



Gretchen M. Sanders, LCSW
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(737) 204-6469

Client Informed Consent

Confidentiality

Texas state law requires that information given to mental health providers remain confidential. I will make every effort to ensure confidentiality is maintained in all aspects of your treatment. A signed release form is required before I can disclose information about your treatment to a third party.

Applicable law and ethical standards permit mental health practitioners to disclose information about you without your authorization only in a limited number of situations. The types of uses and disclosures that may be made without your authorization are these:

- You seriously threaten to hurt yourself or someone else.
- I receive information that a disabled person, a child or an elderly person has been abused or neglected.
- I am ordered to do so by subpoena or court of law.
- I receive information that a previous therapist has been sexually exploitative. In this case, client anonymity can be preserved.

Confidentiality and Minors

Parents and legal guardians of my counseling clients who are under the age of 18 have the right to access their child's psychological records. The exception to this is in the case of an emancipated minor. I will discuss with you the limitations, procedures and implications with regard to your child's records and progress.

Risks of Counseling

There are certain risks associated with therapy. Clients may experience deterioration in emotional and psychological stability at different times during the therapeutic process. Relationships are often affected as a result of therapy and significant relationships will often experience varying degrees of tension. This is often most prevalent within family relationships, but may extend to one's social and professional life. Please feel free to discuss with me any concerns you have about these potential risks.

Crisis/Emergency

I do not provide 24-hour emergency services. Should you require such service, please call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. You may also contact the local 24-hour crisis hotline at (512) 472-HELP (4357). My office is not a crisis facility, and I will not be held responsible for damages occurring as a result of unmet crisis or acute care needs.

Complaints

If you believe I have violated your privacy rights, you have the right to file a complaint in writing to the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners. I will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners
Complaints Management and Investigative Section
P.O. Box 141369
Austin, Texas 78714-1369
Phone: 1-800-942-5540

*My signature below indicates that I have read and I understand the policies above.

Name: _____

Client Signature: _____ **Date** _____