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## BASIC RIGHTS IN PSYCHOTHERAPY

1. You have the right to request information about my professional capabilities, including licensure, education, training, experience, specialization and limitations. You have the right to decide not to receive psychotherapy from me. If you wish, I shall provide you with the names of other qualified psychotherapists.
2. You have the right to receive respectful treatment that will be helpful to you in a safe environment, free from sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. You have the right to end therapy at any time without any moral or legal obligations, or without incurring any further financial obligations.
3. You have the right to ask any questions about the procedures used during therapy, your diagnosis, and your progress. You also have the right not to answer any questions or to disclose any information you choose not to reveal.
4. You have the right to prevent the use of certain therapeutic techniques. I shall inform you of my intention to use any unusual procedures and shall describe any risks involved.
5. You have the right to request and in most cases receive a summary of your file.
6. One of your most important rights involves confidentiality. You hold the legal privilege to all the information presented during therapy. Information is held in the strictest confidence and will not be revealed to any other person or agency without your written permission, within certain limits.
7. You should know that there are certain situations in which, as a psychotherapist, I am mandated by law to reveal information obtained during therapy to other persons or agencies without your permission. Also, I am not required by law to inform you of my actions in this regard. These situations are as follows: (a) if you threaten grave bodily harm or death to another person, I am required by law to inform the intended victim and the appropriate law enforcement agencies; (b) if a court of law issues a legitimate subpoena, I am mandated by law to provide the information specifically described in the subpoena; (c) if you are in therapy or being tested by order of a court of law, the results of the treatment or tests ordered must be revealed to the court of law; (d) if there is sufficient evidence presented in therapy to suspect that a child is being abused, either by neglect, assault, battery, or sexual molestation, I am required by law only to report the “reasonable suspicion” of such abuse. I have no authority nor responsibility to investigate the case; (e) if there is sufficient evidence presented in therapy to suspect that an elder and/or dependent adult is being abused I am required by law to report the “reasonable suspicion” of such abuse; (f) in the case of potential suicide, I am allowed by law to inform the necessary individuals and/or agencies to prevent harm; (g) if you are paying for all or a portion of your therapy with insurance, I may be required to give your insurance company certain information regarding your diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment plan; (h) If you are being seen by a Psychological Assistant your case will be discussed with their licensed supervisor.
8. You have the right to request the transfer of a copy of your file to any therapist or agency that you choose.

I have read and understand all of the above, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

My signature attests to this.

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Signature of Patient or Parent

Date

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