

# **ELHAM SAJED-CONNOR PSY.D.**

## **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST PSY27665**

### **CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

This Consent for Returning to In-Person Psychological Services is a supplement to the general informed consent that we agreed to at the onset of our clinical work together. Please read this document carefully and let me know if you have any further questions.

The threat of COVID-19 is ongoing throughout the United States with its updated variants. As a way to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19, our practice has transitioned to providing most services via telecommunications technology. Use of telecommunications technology reduces the need for persons to come into close contact with each other or to be in areas where exposure to COVID-19 may occur. However, in some situations, teletherapy services may not be adequate and in-person services may be more appropriate.

The decision about whether to engage in in-person services is based on current conditions and guidelines, which may change at any time. It is possible that a return to remote services will be necessary at some point based on consideration of health and safety issues. Such a decision will be made in consultation with you, but I will make the final determination based on a careful weighing of the risks and applicable local and CDC regulations.

It is also important to consider that, although insurance reimbursement for teletherapy services may have been mandated during the COVID-19 pandemic, such mandates may no longer be in effect and teletherapy may not longer be reimbursed by your insurance company.

In order for me to provide you with in-person services, the following protocols must be followed by patients / clients and providers:

- Social distancing requirements must be met, meaning that you must maintain a six-foot distance from others while in offices, waiting rooms and other areas.
- Patients / clients and providers will be required to wear face coverings or masks while in the office or therapy location.

- Hand sanitizing location is located at restrooms or remote therapy location.
- There will be no physical contact with others in the office or remote therapy location.
- You will be asked to wait in your vehicle or outside the office until you receive a text, email, or phone call from office staff indicating that you can enter the office or remote therapy location.
- You agree not to present for in-person services if you have a fever, shortness of breath, coughing or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19 or you have been exposed to another person who is showing signs of infection or has confirmed COVID-19 within the past two weeks.
- If you are bringing a child or other dependents in for services, you agree to ensure that both you and your child / dependent follow all of these protocols.

As COVID-19 regulations continue to evolve, I may become legally required at some point to disclose that you and I have been in contact, especially if either of us were to test positive or show signs of COVID-19 infection. If I am legally compelled to disclose information, I will inform you and will only provide the minimum necessary information (e.g. your name and the dates of our contact) as required by law.

We remain committed to the following California and Federal guidelines adhering to prevailing professional healthcare standards to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in our offices and remote therapy locations. Despite our careful attention to sanitation, social distancing and other protocols there is still a chance that you will be exposed to COVID-19 in our office or remote therapy locations. If, at any point, you prefer to stop in-person services or consider transition to teletherapy services, please let me know.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand that there is still a potential risk of exposure and that you agree to follow the safety protocols outlined above in order to engage in in-person services.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient / Client

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

