

## **Technology and Social Media Policy**

This section of my informed consent outlines my office policies specifically related to use of Technology and Social Media. Please read it to understand how I conduct myself on the internet as a mental health professional and how you can expect me to respond to various interactions that may occur between us on the internet.

### **E-mail**

I do not use E-mail as a form of communication with patients. E-mail communication can be relatively easily accessed by unauthorized people, which may therefore compromise your privacy and confidentiality.

### **Social Networking and Websites**

I do not engage in relationships via social media networks (Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, Linked In, etc.) with current or former clients. Ethical guidelines, as well as legal statutes of our licensing board have strict regulations with regards to dual relationships, confidentiality, and professional boundaries, which prohibit such contact.

### **Business Review Sites**

You may find my psychology practice or my professional name listed on sites such as Google, Yelp, Healthgrades, Yahoo Local, Bing, or other places, which list businesses and health service providers. Some of these sites include forms in which users rate their providers and add reviews. Many of these sites comb search engines for business listings. Service providers will automatically add listings regardless of whether the business has requested to be listed on the site, or added itself to the site. If you should find my listing on any of these sites, please know that my listing is not a request for a testimonial, rating, or endorsement from you as my client. Of course, you have a right to express yourself on any site you wish. But due to confidentiality, I cannot respond to any review on any of these sites, whether it is positive or negative. You should also be aware that if you are using these sites to attempt to communicate indirectly with me about your feelings about our work, there is a good possibility that I may never see it, and other, unintended people may view the information.

### **Location-based Services**

If you use location-based services on your mobile phone, you may wish to be aware of the privacy issues related to using these services. I do not place my practice as a check-in location on any site. However, if you have GPS tracking enabled on your device, it is possible that others may surmise that you are a therapy client due to regular check-ins at my office on a weekly basis.

### **Cell phones**

In theory, all conversations that occur via cell phone and all records of contacts may be accessed by unauthorized persons, and hence, may compromise the privacy and confidentiality of such information. Please notify me if you decide to avoid or limit, in any way, our communication via cell phone.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for taking the time to review my Social Media Policy. If you have questions or concerns about my Technology and Social Media Policy, or regarding our potential interactions on the Internet, please bring them to my attention at any point during the course of treatment so that we can discuss them.