EMERALD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SINCE 2019

Emerald Behavioral Health

INFORMED CONSENT FOR THERAPY SERVICES-Update effective 5/10/2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

The therapeutic relationship is unique in that it is a highly personal and at the same time, a contractual agreement. Given this, it is important for us to reach a clear understanding about how the relationship will work, and what each of us can expect. This consent will provide a clear framework for our work together. Feel free to discuss any of this with your therapist or our staff. Please read and indicate that you have reviewed this information and agree to it by filling in the checkbox at the end of this document.

THE THERAPEUTIC PROCESS

You have taken a very positive step by deciding to seek therapy. The outcome of your treatment depends largely on your willingness to engage in this process, which may, at times, result in considerable discomfort. Remembering unpleasant events and becoming aware of feelings attached to those events can bring on strong feelings of anger, depression, anxiety, etc. There are no miracle cures. We cannot promise that your behavior or circumstance will change. We can promise to support you and do our very best to understand you and help you clarify what it is that you want for yourself.

CONFIDENTIALITY

You have the right to confidential treatment. We will not notify or release information to anyone outside this facility without written permission. Any information given to the family, employer, or to other agencies has to be permitted by you. In addition, you have the right to refuse, revoke, or cancel any release signed, if you should change your mind.

Parent or legal guardian must provide consent for outpatient services to minors age 13 years of age or younger. Minors 14 years of age or older may provide informed consent for outpatient services independent of parental or guardian consent. As a professional staff, we work together and therefore will exchange information and ideas to improve your treatment. These disclosures are limited to staff associated with our facility professionally. Emerald Behavioral Health follows State and Federal requirements for individual confidentiality except in the following circumstances:

Court Subpoena: If you are involved in a court trial and the opposing attorney wishes to subpoena your records, they can. It is Emerald Behavioral Health policy to not surrender your chart unless the attorney petitions the judge for a court order. We must comply or be subject to contempt of court. Even in this circumstance, the judge must not reveal the contents of your record to anyone unless it has direct bearing on the trial. Example: If you are involved in a child custody hearing and your spouse has your record subpoenaed to prove that you are chemically dependent, the judge would first have to decide whether it was relevant to the case before allowing the contents of the chart to be brought to trial.

Child Abuse: If the therapist has a reasonable suspicion that a client or other named victim is the perpetrator, observer of, or actual victim of physical, emotional or sexual abuse of children under the age of 18 years. This involves the State law requiring the disclosure to the Children's Services Division of any suspected mistreatment of children.

Elder Abuse: If the therapist has a reasonable suspicion that a client or other named victim is the perpetrator, observer of, or actual victim of physical, emotional or sexual abuse of Elders.

Endangerment: If the staff believed you were about to attempt suicide, take someone's life, or injure someone, the therapist may over-ride confidentiality per duty to warn.

Life-Threatening Emergency: If you have been hurt, taken to the hospital and are unconscious, social information could save your life. In such a case, Emerald Behavioral Health can use discretion to provide information needed. It is Emerald Behavioral Health's intent to not use an individual's information in a harmful way but for you to get well. We will protect all information about you to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Mandated Services: If a client is in therapy or being treated by order of a court of law, or if information is obtained for the purpose of rendering an expert's report to an attorney.
Occasionally your therapist may need to consult with other professionals in their areas of expertise in order to provide the best treatment for you. Information about you may be shared in this context without using your name.

If your therapist or a staff member and you see each other accidentally outside of the therapy office, they will not acknowledge you first. Your right to privacy and confidentiality is of the utmost importance to us, and we do not wish to jeopardize your privacy.

I AM AGREEING THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

Signature Date