Information, Consent and Policies

We are honored that you have selected Woodlands Family Institute to provide counseling or psychological services. All of us wish to do our best to assist you in making this experience meaningful and fruitful. This document is designed to inform you about my background and to ensure that you understand our professional relationship.

From a young age, I aspired to help others, and I am grateful to be living out that dream. My mission is to build a strong therapeutic relationship with my clients, support them with coping skills and problem-solving strategies, and tailor treatment to meet their unique needs. I hold a Master's degree in Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling from Sam Houston State University and have experience counseling adolescents, adults, couples, and families.

I view the therapeutic relationship as collaborative. While some clients need only a few sessions to reach their goals, others may require months or longer. As a client, you are in complete control and may end our professional relationship at any point. Ultimately, my job is to work myself out of a job, so that you feel confident to carry on without my intervention. My mission is to build a deep therapeutic relationship with my clients and walk alongside them, encouraging them, providing coping skills and problem-solving strategies, and tailoring the treatment to my client's needs to improve their quality of life.

My expectations of my clients are to keep scheduled appointments, be forthright about issues and goals and take an active and engaging role in the process.

If at any time you are dissatisfied with my services, please let me know. Sessions can evoke strong emotions and sometimes influence unanticipated changes in one's behavior. It is important that you discuss with me any questions or discomfort you may have during the process. I may be able to help you understand the experience or use a different approach that may be more effective for you.

I assure you that our work will be conducted in a conscientious manner consistent with accepted ethical standards. Please note that it is not possible to guarantee any specific results regarding your goals. However, together we will work to achieve the best possible results.

Please be aware that I **do not** provide consultation, evaluation, or legal testimony in child custody, child visitation, or molestation cases. If you require these services, I will be happy to refer you to professionals who work with these issues.

Children can be joyful and energetic, but with respect to the concerns which brought you to us, we request that you obtain a sitter for children not receiving treatment so that our full attention can be devoted to your priorities.

Although our sessions may be very intimate psychologically, it is important for you to realize that we have a professional relationship rather than a social one. Our contact will be limited to sessions you arrange with me. It may be confusing and counter-productive for me to accept gifts or be invited to social gatherings. So please do not ask me to relate to you in any way other than in the professional context of our sessions. I want your sessions to be safe and secure as possible so that we concentrate exclusively on your concerns.

Office Policies
Initial:
<u>Fees Schedule:</u> All fees for services are due at the time of the appointment. For payment, please
see the office staff prior to each appointment. Follow-up appointments will not be honored if
your account is overdue. If an outstanding balance accrues, you will be billed on the first of the
month and assessed a 2% finance charge, compounded monthly. There is a \$10.00 rebilling fee
for every statement sent out after the first billing. There is also a \$25.00 fee for each check
returned for insufficient funds. After 90 days with no payments or effort to arrange payment, accounts will be turned over to a collection agency which will impact your credit rating.
Regular session fee: \$150.00 (50-minute duration)
Couples session initial visit fee: \$195.00 (this is a one time session fee only, this fee includes a
scientific based couples assessment)
After hour's session fee: \$200.00
Miscellaneous: Charges for other professional services are prorated on the basis of \$150.00 per
hour, 15-minute increments. These services include, but are not limited to, phone calls, insurance
reports, third-party consultations, and correspondence. Off-site consultation is prorated at the
rate of \$225.00 per hour, "portal to portal", that is, for the time I am out of the office on your behalf.
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Initial:
Legal testimony: Please be advised that I do not provide consultation, evaluation or legal expert
testimony in child custody, child visitation or molestation cases. Similarly, I do not consider my
practice to include expert testimonials. However, should my opinion be so ordered, fees will be
charged at the rate of \$800.00 per hour, portal to portal. This fee will apply as well to depositions
or interrogatories. All fees of this nature are <u>payable in advance</u> .
Initial
Medicare & Medicaid: All of our counselors/therapists at Woodlands Family Institute, P.C. have
opted out of being a Medicare and Medicaid provider. All clients on Medicare, or are eligible for
Medicare, must sign the federally mandated "Private Contract" to receive services at our
practice. All services must be paid at the time of service, and neither WFI, its
counselors/therapists, nor the client may file a claim to Medicare for reimbursement.
Are you on Medicare or Medicare Eligible? yes no
If yes, please notify your counselor/therapist BEFORE your first session so you can sign the Medicare
Opt Out Private Contract. This is required for all Medicare or Medicare Eligible clients.

Medicaid: We are not accepting any Medicaid patients; we will only accept "Private Pay" patients. We will not file any claims to Medicaid for reimbursement of your medical services now or at any time in the future.

Initial:

<u>Office hours</u> are from Monday - Friday, starting at 9:00 am -7:00 pm. On Fridays, the office staff is available from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Any time outside of the stated office hours (Monday through Friday) are considered "after hours" and will be charged accordingly. After-hours is typically reserved for family time and self-care. Saturdays are considered after-hours and will also incur the after-hours fee.

Initial:

Cancellations:

All cancellations are expected to be made with 24-hour's notice. If you cancel your scheduled appointment less than 24-hours, or if you are a "no show," you will be charged the **full rate of the session**. Please note that insurance companies do not reimburse for missed appointments. **Please call WFI at: 281-363-4220 for cancellations, as email is not monitored daily for cancellations.**

Initial:

Insurance: Your health insurance policy is a contract between you and your insurance company. Clients who carry insurance should remember that professional services are rendered and charged to the client and not to the insurance company. Some insurance companies reimburse clients for services and some do not. Those that do usually require a standard amount be paid by you before reimbursement is allowed, and then usually a percentage of the fee is reimbursable. The client remains responsible for payment in full, including any portion not reimbursed by insurance. Please be aware that third-party payers require the provision of a diagnosis and supporting clinical data. We have no control over the confidentiality procedure of third parties once clinical information leaves this office. In all likelihood, a computer record will be generated. The office staff will provide you with insurance-ready receipts for filing your claim. WFI does not file out-of-network insurance claims.

Initial:

<u>Confidentiality:</u> All information disclosed within sessions is confidential and may be revealed only in certain situations. At times I may legally and/or ethically be required to share information about you without your consent. Such situations are, but are not limited to the following:

- Information released to other professionals involved in your treatment.
- If you are under 18, your parents or legal guardian(s) may have access to your records and may authorize their release to other parties.
- If you are determined to be in imminent danger of harming yourself or someone else unless protective measures are taken.
- If you disclose abuse or neglect of children, the elderly, or disabled person. In the instance of reasonable suspicion of child or elder abuse.
- If you disclose sexual misconduct by a therapist.
- To individuals, corporations or governmental agencies involved in paying or collecting fees for services (this includes insurance companies).

Please be advised that insurance reimbursement usually requires background information, including substance abuse, diagnostic criteria, and treatment plan form completion. In addition, please note that most applications for health insurance include a release of information for medical records (this would include therapy/counseling records).

- In criminal court proceedings.
- In legal or regulatory actions against a professional.
- In proceedings in which a claim is made about one's physical, emotional, or mental condition.
- When disclosure is relevant in any suit affecting the parent-child relationship. This includes divorce and child custody deliberations.
- Where otherwise legally required.

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Emergency services: It is assumed that outpatient clients are self-responsible, autonomous, and not in need of day-to-day supervision. Outpatient clinicians cannot assume responsibilities for clients' day-to-day functioning, as can agencies or inpatient hospital settings. Nevertheless, if an emergency occurs, leave a message with the answering service, making sure to state that your call is an emergency. We will respond to your call as promptly as possible. Routine calls will be returned during normal office hours. We can be reached at 281-363-4220 or 713-866-4494. If we are unable to respond quickly enough, please call 911 or your local emergency room.

•	agree to all professional policies, agree to meet all intract replaces any earlier contracts. Additionally,
I understand that there can be no absolute psychotherapy.	guarantee of a cure in the practice of
 Signature	Date

Last name:	
	Year:
Home #:	
Relationship:	Phone:
eo platforms until I notify WFI	eceive outpatient mental health services in of any changes or until it is gal right to seek and authorize treatment for
Signature:	Date:
file stating who has the authority for	s State Licensing board that a copy of the making mental health decisions for a minor. It
Date of birth: _	
Signature:	Date:
Signature:	Date:
your session begins. This card will a	e a different payment method at the time of your llso be used for all after hours appointments,
Relatio	nship
Exp. D	ate
	Month: Home #: Relationship: I give full consent for myself to recomplate platforms until I notify WFI cessary. I certify that I have the less signature: Signature: atient mental health services in personal lit is determined that treatment is notice in place: It is required by the Texas in file stating who has the authority for child's first session. Date of birth: Signature: Signature: Signature: n file for all sessions. If you wish to use your session begins. This card will a late cancel appointments. Relation

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Financial Responsibility

Name of person(s) financially responsible for this account			
Address/phone if different from client			
Signature(s)			
Relationship to client			
Referred to our office by			
May we send a thank you to the person who referred you?	Yes	No	
May we mention your name in that thank you?	Yes	No	

Client Information Statement

The Texas Boards of Examiners of Licensed Psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Social Workers, and Licensed Professional Counselors were established by the legislature to protect the public. In fulfilling its mission, the Boards enacted rules governing the practice of psychology, family therapy, and counseling. These rules require that a therapist provide prospective clients with sufficient information about the therapeutic process so that the client can make an informed decision whether or not to enter therapy.

Attached to this Information Statement is a general information statement, Agreement for Services, and the information regarding the procedures or psychotherapy in general and our office policies.

After reading the agreements, please ask about any part of the agreement that you do not understand.

Appointment Reminders

As a courtesy, you will receive an appointment reminder to your email address or your cell phone (via text message or computer-generated voice mail message), the day before your scheduled appointments.

Your name: (Please print):	
Your email address:	
Your cell number:	
Where would you like to receive appointme	ent reminders? (Check one)
Via text message on my cell phone (n	ormal text message rates will apply)
Via email message to the address list	ed above
Via automated voice mail message or	n my cell phone
Missed appointment fees will still apply the office if you need to cancel an appoint	. 24-hour cancellation policy still applies. Please ca ment.
• •	oe "Protected Health Information" under HIPAA. By this information completely private and requesting
Signature	 Date
{Please refer to pa	ges 9-10 of this document}
Privacy of Your Health Information and the C accept those policies and practices. WFI is he	py of the Notice of Policies and Practices to Protect th Office Information and Office Policies. I understand an reby granted consent to contact me as specified abounders as described in those policies for Treatmen
Client or Authorized Representative Signature	
Refuse to SignUnable to Sign (s	pecify reason)

Date

Signature of Person Documenting Refusal or Inability to Sign

Notice of Policies and Practices to Protect the Privacy of Your Health Information

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

I. Uses and Disclosures for Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations

Woodlands Family Institute (WFI) may use or disclose your protected health information (PHI), for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes with your general consent. To help clarify these terms, here are some definitions:

- "PHI" refers to information in your health record that could identify you.
- "Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations"
 - Treatment is when we provide, coordinate or manage your health care and other services related to your health care. An example of treatment would be when I consult with another health care provider, such as your family physician or a colleague.
 - Payment is when we obtain reimbursement for your healthcare. Examples of payment are when we disclose your PHI to your health insurer to obtain reimbursement for your health care or to determine eligibility or coverage.
 - Health Care Operations are activities that relate to the performance and operation of my practice. Examples of health care operations are quality assessment and improvement activities, business-related matters such as audits and administrative services, and case management and care coordination.
- "Use" applies only to activities within WFI such as utilizing information that identifies you.
- "Disclosure" applies to activities outside of WFI, such as releasing, transferring, or providing access to information about you to other parties.

II. Uses and Disclosures Requiring Authorization

We may use or disclose PHI for purposes outside of treatment, payment, and health care operations when your appropriate authorization is obtained. An "authorization" is written permission above and beyond the general consent that permits only specific disclosures. In those instances when we are asked for information for purposes outside of treatment, payment and health care operations, we will obtain an authorization from you before releasing this information. We will also need to obtain an authorization before releasing your psychotherapy notes. "Psychotherapy notes" are notes we have made about our conversation regarding a private, group, joint, or family counseling session. These notes are given a greater degree of protection than PHI.

You may revoke all such authorizations (of PHI or psychotherapy notes) at any time, provided each revocation is in writing. You may not revoke an authorization to the extent that (1) we have relied on that authorization; or (2) if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage, and the law provides the insurer the right to contest the claim under the policy.

III. Uses and Disclosures with Neither Consent nor Authorization

We may use or disclose PHI without your consent or authorization in the following circumstances:

- Child Abuse: If we have cause to believe that a child has been, or may be, abused, neglected, or sexually abused, we must make
 a report of such within 48 hours to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, the Texas Youth Commission, or
 to any local or state law enforcement agency.
- Abuse of the Elderly and Disabled: If we have cause to believe that an elderly or disabled person is in a state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, we must immediately report such to the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.
- Sexual Misconduct by a therapist: If you report to us any situation that constitutes sexual misconduct by a current or former therapist, then we are required to inform the licensing authority of the offending therapist.
- Regulatory Oversight: If a complaint is filed against a therapist with a regulatory authority, they have the authority to subpoena
 confidential mental health information relevant to that complaint.
- Judicial or Administrative Proceedings: If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information about
 your diagnosis and treatment and the records thereof, such information is privileged under state law, and we will not release
 information, without written authorization from you or your personal or
 - legally appointed representative, or a court order. The privilege does not apply when you are being evaluated for a third party or where the evaluation is court ordered. You will be informed in advance if this is the case.
- Serious Threat to Health or Safety: If we determine that there is a probability of imminent physical injury by you to yourself or
 others, or there is a probability of immediate mental or emotional injury to you, we may disclose relevant confidential mental
 health information to medical or law enforcement personnel.

• Worker's Compensation: If you file a worker's compensation claim, we may disclose records relating to your diagnosis and treatment to your employer's insurance carrier.

IV. Client's Rights and Our Professional Duties

Client's Rights:

- Right to Request Restrictions —You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of protected health information about you. However, we are not required to agree to a restriction you request.
- Right to Receive Confidential Communications by Alternative Means and at Alternative Locations You have the right to request and receive confidential communications of PHI by alternative means and at alternative locations. (For example, you may not want a family member to know that you are seeking our services. Upon your request, we will send bills or other correspondence to another address.)
- Right to Inspect and Copy You have the right to inspect or obtain a copy (or both) of PHI and psychotherapy notes in my mental health and billing records used to make decisions about you for as long as the PHI is maintained in the record. We may deny your access to PHI under certain circumstances, but in some cases you may have this decision reviewed. On your request, we will discuss with you the details of the request and denial process.
- Right to Amend You have the right to request an amendment of PHI for as long as the PHI is maintained in the record. We may deny your request. On your request, we will discuss with you the details of the amendment process.
- Right to an Accounting You generally have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of PHI for which you have neither provided consent nor authorization (as described in Section III of this Notice). On your request, we will discuss with you the details of the accounting process.
- Right to a Paper Copy You have the right to obtain a paper copy of the notice from me upon request, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically.

Our Professional Duties:

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy of PHI and to provide you with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI.
- We reserve the right to change the privacy policies and practices described in this notice. Unless we notify you of such changes, however, we are required to abide by the terms currently in effect.
- If we revise our policies and procedures, we will post a current copy in our offices. A current copy will always be available on our
 web site and you may request a personal copy.

V. Questions and Complaints

If you have questions about this notice, disagree with a decision we make about access to your records, or have other concerns about your privacy rights, you may contact Miranda Butler, Office Manager, or your therapist at (281) 363-4220.

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated and wish to file a complaint with our office, you may send your written complaint to the office manager or your therapist at: 1610 Woodstead Ct., Suite 420, The Woodlands, TX 77380. You may also send a written complaint to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The person listed above can provide you with the appropriate address upon request. You have specific rights under the Privacy Rule. We will not retaliate against you for exercising your right to file a complaint.

NOTICE TO CLIENTS: The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council investigates and prosecutes professional misconduct committed by marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, psychologists, psychological associates, social workers, and licensed specialists in school psychology. Although not every complaint against or dispute with a licensee involves professional misconduct, the Executive Council will provide you with information about how to file a complaint. Please call 1-800-821-3205 for more information.

Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, George H.W. Bush State Office Building, 1801 Congress Ave., Ste. 7.300, Austin, Texas 78701

Tel. (512) 305-7700 or 1-800-821-3205

VI. Effective Date, Restrictions and Changes to Privacy Policy

This notice will go into effect on 3/28/2005. We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice and to make the new notice provisions effective for all PHI that we maintain. We will provide you with a revised notice in our lobby and on our web site. You may request a personal copy at any time.

PSYCHOSOCIAL HISTORY

Today's Date	
Name of Patient	Date of birth
Presenting Problems:	
Recent life transition	
Depression, isolation, withdrawal	
Suicide attempt or ideation	
Homicidal ideation	
Anxiety	
Self-abusive behavior	
Abuse (<u>physical, emotional, sexual</u>)	
History of traumatic life events (in addition to the	ne previous)
Neglect, abandonment	
Marginal to low IQ	
Difficulty at school or work	
Difficulty with authority	
Commits unlawful acts	
Under socialized (difficulty making friends)	
Anger outbursts/rage	
Runaway from home or placement	
Impulse control problems	
Low self-esteem	
Physically aggressive	
Destruction of property	
Sexual dysfunction	
Does not feel guilty about wrongdoing	
Paranoid thoughts, delusions	
Hallucinations (auditory, visual, tactile)	
Gender identity problems	
Excessive worry, racing thoughts, obsessions	
Compulsive behavior	
Substance abuse	
Parenting Problems	
Relationship Discord	
Other (please describe)	

Description:

Where? Who was you	·	s before today? Y N If yes, when?	
Symptoms:			
agitation		hyperactive	
appetite		panic attacks	
energy		poor concentration	
hygiene		memory	
motivation		sadness	
racing thoughts		erratic behavior	
self-esteem		flat emotions	
sleep		obsessive thoughts/behaviors	
social isolation		excessive emotionality	
tearful		hallucinations/delusions	
weight loss/gain		self-confidence	
worry		loneliness	
Description:			
History of psychiatric	hospitalizations		
Date	Location	Outcome	
Date	Location	Outcome	
Date	eOutcome		
Family past psychiatri	ic history		

Family medical history:	
Personal past medical history:	
Drug and Alcohol Abuse Any family history of drug and/or alcohol usage? Please	e list and describe
Any personal history of drug/alcohol usage? List and de	escribe
Facilities California de la Carte de la Ca	

Family History (include spouse, significant other, children, parents, stepfamilies, adoption history, etc.)

Name	Relationship	Age	Living where?

Other significant adults or children in patient's life (Please include type of relationship-e.g.		
supportive, conflictual, etc.)		
Traumatizing Life Events		
Have you experienced any history of significant abuse (physical, emotional or sexual)? Please briefly describe		
Any history of significant life events such as deaths, separation from parent(s), frequent moves terminal illnesses in the family or close friendship?		
Educational History Highest degree earned		
Current School attending Grade		
Average grade performance		
Overall motivation to attend school		
Extracurricular activities		
Employment History Present employment status-where-how long? Positive/negative aspects of current position		

Marital status of patient:

__Single How long_____ Married How long Divorced How long ago _____ Separated How long ago Widow/widower How long ago _____ **Marital Issues:** Communication Anger Infidelity __Lying Sexual differences ___Parenting Jealousy Abuse Emotional Stress Trust ___Physical **DESIRED TREATMENT GOALS**

Treatment Plan

{Your clinician will discuss the following items with you upon your initial session, and periodically thereafter as needed.}

Diagno	stic Impression:		
Treatm	nent Goals:		
1.	Reduce frequency and intensity of:		
2.	Increase frequency and intensity of:		
3.	Eliminate:		
Tre	eatment Methods and Duration:		
	Individual sessions - weekly bi-weekly monthly Couple/family sessions – weekly bi-weekly monthly	,	
Re	commendations for Adjunctive Treatment/Assessment:		
Pla	n Review/Revision:		
			
Alissa Ro	bberts, MA, LPC Associate	Client Signature	

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Under the Supervision of Pam Cosart, MA, LPC-S, LCDC