

Bridges Counseling Center

Consent for Treatment

JAMIE MILLER, LMFT
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Client Name _____ Phone: _____

Thank you for placing your initial trust in me by making this appointment. My goal is to be compassionate, sensitive, and helpful to my clients and maintain mutual respect and dignity at the same time. The following is a summary of my standard office practices. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding these procedures or any other questions about your treatment at our first session.

Confidentiality:

Everything we discuss in this office about you, your assessment or treatment is confidential. Unless you give informed, written permission to do otherwise, the information discussed here will not be shared with anyone else. The only exceptions to that rule (the only times I can break confidentiality without your consent) are:

- **Abuse of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

If a client states or suggests that he or she is abusing a minor child or has recently abused a child, or if a child is in danger of abuse, the mental health professional is required to report this information to the appropriate social service worker. The same applies to abuse of vulnerable adults.

- **Duty to Warn and Protect**

When a client discloses intentions or a plan to harm another person, the mental health professional is required to warn the intended victim and report this information to legal authorities. In cases in which the client discloses or implies a plan for suicide, the health care professional is required to notify legal authorities and make reasonable attempts to notify the family of the client.

- **Minors/Guardianship**

Parents or legal guardians of non-emancipated minor clients have the right to access the client's records. Communications between therapists and minor clients (under the age of 18) are *confidential*. However, parents and guardians who provide authorization for their child's treatment are encouraged to be involved in their treatment. Consequently, I may discuss the *treatment progress* of a minor client with the parent or caretaker, but not details that would decrease trust between the minor and me. Minor clients and their parents are urged to discuss any questions or concerns they have on this topic.

- **Insurance Providers (when applicable)**

Insurance companies and other third-party payers are given information that they request regarding services to clients. Information that may be requested includes type of services, dates/times of services, diagnosis, treatment plan, and description of impairment, progress of therapy, case notes, and summaries.

