

**PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES OF ST. AUGUSTINE
CONSENT FOR TREATMENT**

Welcome to Psychological Services of St. Augustine, an association of independent mental health professionals. We want you to know that we are completely independent in providing you with clinical services and your independent provider is fully responsible for these services. Each provider keeps professional records that are separately maintained. To optimize treatment outcomes and for the purpose of coordination of care, by signing this release you will be authorizing communication between providers within the practice regarding your mental health care, unless otherwise revoked in writing.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

There are many different methods of mental health treatment. What is best for you may depend on the problems you are experiencing and the personalities of you and your mental health provider. It is not like a visit to a physician – mental health therapy requires active effort on your part in order for treatment to be successful. When you first begin discussing some of the unpleasant aspects of your life, you may experience some uncomfortable feelings (such as sadness, guilt, anger, loneliness and helplessness). Discuss these feelings with your provider so that they can help you deal with them and continue with effective treatment. Completing treatment often leads not only to the resolution of the problem, but to better relationships and greater success.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

State and federal laws protects the privacy of what is discussed in our treatment sessions. Our employees are prohibited from talking about you or anything that relates to your treatment outside the practice. In turn, you are expected to respect the privacy of other people. We cannot release information about our work with you to others without your written permission. Florida law does allow for information to be released without permission in the following circumstances:

1. By law, we must report any evidence of abuse or neglect of children, the elderly or disabled to agencies of the State of Florida.
2. When a client is a serious danger to himself or herself, or dangerous to others, we may have to inform family members or the proper authorities.
3. In some cases, a judge has the legal authority, regardless of your wishes, to require us to release information.
4. If you are a minor, your parent has the right to review your treatment records.

You have the right to review your treatment records, unless it is believed that this would endanger your life or physical safety or that of anyone else. If your records could potentially be emotionally damaging, a summary of your treatment may be prepared for you.

CONTACTING YOUR PROVIDER

Our offices are open from 8:30 – 5:30 Monday through Thursday and 8:30 – 5:00 on Fridays. We have a 24-hour answering service for emergencies after hours. The answering service will make every effort to contact your particular therapist in an emergency. If you have an emergency and are unable to reach us, please call 911 or go to the local emergency room. During office hours, please let our staff know if your call is an emergency and they will make every effort to contact your therapist. Each therapist works their individual schedules and therefore may not always be available. For non-emergency messages, you may leave messages on your therapist’s private voicemail during office hours or send an email after hours.

After you have signed this consent, you have the right to revoke it in writing (by writing us a letter telling us you no longer consent) and we will comply with your wishes about using or sharing information from that time on. **If we have no contact from you for 90 days, your case may be closed. If at any time you decide to return to therapy, we would be happy to help you re-open your case.**

Signature of client or Legal Guardian

Date

Printed name of client of Legal Guardian

Relationship to client