

Notice of Privacy Practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY

Your health record contains personal information about you and your health. This information about you that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services is referred to as “protected health information”. This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how I may use and disclose your protected health information in accordance with applicable law and the NASW Code of Ethics. It also describes your rights regarding how you may gain access to and control your protected health information.

As part of your protected health information, I keep some specific information in what are called “psychotherapy notes”. These notes are kept separate from your health record and are given much higher privacy protection. They contain my impressions about you and details of the psychotherapy conversation I consider to be inappropriate for the health record. They contain information pertinent only to my future work with you. They are not available for your review, nor to insurance and managed care companies.

I am required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information and to provide you with notice of my legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information. I am required to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices. I reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. Any new Notice of Privacy Practices will be effective for all protected health information that we maintain at that time. I will provide you with a copy of the revised Notice of Privacy Practices by posting a copy in our office, sending a copy to you in the mail upon request or providing one to you at your next appointment.

How I May Use and Disclose Health Information about You

For Treatment: Your protected health information may be used and disclosed by those who are involved in your care for the purpose of providing, coordinating, or managing your health care treatment and this includes consultation with clinical supervisors or other treatment team members.

For Payment: I may use and disclose protected health information so that I can receive payment for the treatment services provided to you. This will only be done with your authorization. Examples of payment related activities are: making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, processing claims with your insurance company, reviewing services provided to you to determine medical necessity, or undertaking utilization review activities. If it becomes necessary to use collection processes due to lack of payment for services, I will only disclose the minimum amount of protected health information necessary for purposes of collection.

For Health Care Operations: I may use or disclose, as needed, your protected health information in order to support my business activities including, but not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities, licensing, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. For example, I may share your protected health information with third parties that perform various business activities (e.g., billing or typing services). This is allowed only if I have a written contract which requires that business to safeguard the privacy of your protected health information.

Required by Law: There are occasions which require me under law to disclose your protected health information with or without your authorization. Some examples are:

- If you are in imminent danger of committing suicide I am legally and ethically bound to intervene in anyway necessary to prevent that including contacting family members and the police
- To the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of investigating or determining my compliance with the Federal privacy requirements,
- If you are at risk of being a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public, I will disclose information to prevent or lessen that serious threat. I will disclose it to the local law enforcement including police and sheriff.
- If there is suspicion of neglect or abuse of a child in the past, present or future I am required by law to report that to the Ohio Division of Child and Family Services or the police.
- If I have reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is suffering from abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation, I am required by law to make a report to either the Ohio Adult Protective Services, or the nearest law enforcement agency as soon as I become aware of the situation.
- I may disclose your personal health information in accordance with workers compensation laws.
- If you become involved in the court system a judge can order that I provide information on you. Two examples of this are child custody cases and cases in which clients bring action against therapists.

With Your Verbal Permission: I can share some information about you with your family or close others. I will only share information with those involved in your care and anyone else you choose such as close friends or clergy. I will ask you about who you want us to tell what information about your condition or treatment. You can tell us what you want and we will honor your wishes as long as it is not against the law.

If it is an emergency - so I cannot ask if you disagree - I can share information if I believe that it is what you would have wanted and if I believe it will help you if I do share it. If I do share information, in an emergency, I will tell you as soon as I can. If you don't approve, I will stop, as long as it is not against the law.

With Your Written Authorization: Uses and disclosures not specifically permitted by the circumstances described above will be made only with your written authorization, which may be revoked. Your Rights Regarding Your Protected Health Information You have the following rights regarding protected health information I maintain about you. To exercise any of these rights, please submit your request in writing to our Privacy Officer, (name, address and phone number of the Privacy Officer).

Right of Access to Inspect and Copy. You have the right, which may be restricted only in exceptional circumstances, to inspect and copy protected health information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Your right to inspect and copy protected health information will be restricted only in those situations where there is compelling evidence that access would cause serious harm to you. I may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee for copies.

Right to Amend. If you feel that the protected health information, I have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask me to amend the information although I am not required to agree to the amendment.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request an accounting of certain of the disclosures that I make of your protected health information. I may charge you a reasonable fee if you request more than one accounting in any 12-month period.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the use or disclosure of your protected health information for treatment, payment, or health care operations. I am not required to agree to your request.

Right to Request Confidential Communication. You have the right to request that I communicate with you about health matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For instance, you can ask me to avoid calling you on selected phone numbers or ask that I send bills to an alternate address.

Right to a Copy of this Notice. You have the right to a copy of this notice.

Complaints

If you believe I have violated your privacy rights, you have the right to file a complaint in writing with our Privacy Officer, (name, address and phone number of the Privacy Officer) or with the Secretary of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201 or by calling (202) 619-0257. I will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

Effective Date The effective date of this Notice is April 14, 2003.

Privacy Officer: Shawn D.
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Effective Date, Restrictions, and Changes to Privacy Policy:

This notice will go into effect on Mach 27, 2021 and

remain so unless new notice provisions effective for all protected health information are enacted accordingly.

THIS IS THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT