



Group Practice Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy

This document outlines our office policies related to use of Social Media and Electronic Communication. Please read it to understand how we conduct ourselves on the Internet as mental health professionals and how you can expect me to respond to various interactions.

If you have any questions about anything within this document, I encourage you to bring them up when we meet. I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy.

Friending

We do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc). Adding clients as friends or contacts on these sites can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy.

There is a Facebook and Instagram Page for the practice to allow people to share research articles, inspirational quotes, and practice updates with other Facebook users. You are welcome to view my Facebook and Instagram Page and read or share articles posted there, but I do not accept clients as Fans of this Page as this creates a greater likelihood of compromised client confidentiality. In addition, the American Psychological Association's Ethics Code prohibits my soliciting testimonials from clients.

Interacting

Please do not use messaging on Social Networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram or Google+ to contact me. These sites are not secure and I may not read these messages in a timely fashion. It may also create the possibility that these exchanges become a part of your legal medical record and will need to be documented and archived in your chart. If you need to contact me between sessions, the best way to do so is by phone. Direct email and text messaging is only for quick, administrative issues such as changing appointment times. See the email section below for more information regarding email interactions.

Business Review Sites

You may find my psychology practice on sites such as Google, or other places which list businesses. Some of these sites include forums in which users rate their providers and add reviews. If you should find my listing on any of these sites, please know that my listing is NOT a request for a testimonial, rating, or endorsement from you as my client.

The American Psychological Association's Ethics Code states under Principle 5.05 that it is unethical for psychologists to solicit testimonials: "Psychologists do not solicit testimonials from current therapy clients/patients or other persons who because of their particular circumstances are vulnerable to undue influence."

Of course, you have a right to express yourself on any site you wish. If we are working together, I hope that you will bring your feelings and reactions to our work directly into the therapy process. This can be



an important part of therapy, even if you decide we are not a good fit. None of this is meant to keep you from sharing that you are in therapy with me wherever and with whomever you like.

Email/Text

I prefer using email and text only to arrange or modify appointments. Please do not email or text me content related to your therapy sessions, as email and text are not completely secure or confidential. If you choose to communicate with me by email or text, be aware that all emails and texts are retained in the logs of your and my Internet service and phone company providers. You should also know that any emails or texts I receive from you and any responses that I send to you become a part of your legal record.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to review my Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy. If you have questions or concerns about any of these policies and procedures or regarding our potential interactions on the Internet, do bring them to my attention so that we can discuss them.

Please sign below acknowledging receipt of the Social Media and EC policy.

Signature of Patient or Parent if under 18

Date