

Notice of Privacy Practices

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

The terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices (Notice) apply to Jenna Richardson, LCSW as an independent mental health practitioner. Jenna Richardson, LCSW will share protected health information (PHI) of clients as necessary to carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations, as permitted by law. I am required by law to maintain the privacy of my clients PHI and to provide clients with notice of my legal duties and privacy practices with respect to their PHI. I am required to abide by the terms of this Notice for as long as it remains in effect.

I reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice, as necessary, and to make a new notice of privacy practices effective for all PHI maintained by me, as your therapist retaining medical records. I am required to notify you in the event of a breach of your unsecured protected health information. Also, I am required to inform you that there may be a provision of state law that relates to the privacy of your health information that may be more stringent than the standard requirement under the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). A copy of any revised Notice of Privacy Practices or information pertaining to a specific State law may be obtained by mailing a request to the Privacy Officer at the address below:

*Attorney General's Office California Department of Justice
Attn: Public Inquiry Unit
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550*

I. MY PLEDGE REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION:

I understand that health information about you and your health care is personal. I am committed to protecting health information about you. I create a record of the care and services you receive from me. I need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by this mental health care practice. This notice will tell you about the ways in which I may use and disclose health information about you. I also describe your rights to the health information I keep about you, and describe certain obligations I have regarding the use and disclosure of your health information. I am required by law to:

- Make sure that protected health information (PHI) that identifies you is kept private.*
- Give you this notice of my legal duties and privacy practices with respect to health information.*
- Follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect.*
- I can change the terms of this Notice, and such changes will apply to all information I have about you. Any new Notice will be available upon request, in my office, and on my website (wavesca.org).*

II. HOW I MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

The following categories describe different ways that I use and disclose health information. For each category of uses or disclosures I will explain what I mean and try to give some examples. Not every use or

disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all of the ways I am permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

Authorization and Consent: Except as outlined below, I will not use or disclose your PHI for any purpose other than treatment, payment or health care operations unless you have signed a form authorizing such use or disclosure. You have the right to revoke such authorization in writing, with such revocation being effective once we actually receive the writing; however, such revocation shall not be effective to the extent that we have taken any action in reliance on the authorization, or if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage, other law provides the insurer with the right to contest a claim under the policy or the policy itself.

Uses and Disclosures for Payment: I will make uses and disclosures of your PHI as necessary for payment purposes. If you are using insurance benefits to assist in payment for services, during the normal course of business operations, I may forward information regarding your medical procedures and treatment to your insurance company to arrange payment for the services provided to you. I may also use your information to prepare a bill to send to you or to the person responsible for your payment.

For Treatment and Health Care Operations: Federal privacy regulations allow health care providers who have a direct treatment relationship with the client to use or disclose the client PHI without the clients written authorization, to carry out the health care providers own treatment or health care operations. I may also disclose your PHI for the treatment activities of any health care provider. This too can be done without your written authorization. For example, if a clinician were to consult with another licensed health care provider about your condition, I would be permitted to use and disclose your PHI, which is otherwise confidential, in order to assist the clinician in diagnosis and treatment of your mental health condition. Disclosures for treatment purposes are not limited to the minimum necessary standard. Because therapists and other health care providers need access to the full record and/or full and complete information in order to provide quality care. The word treatment includes, among other things, the coordination and management of health care providers with a third party, consultations between health care providers, and referrals of a patient for health care from one health care provider to another.

Lawsuits and Disputes: If you are involved in a lawsuit, I may disclose health information in response to a court or administrative order. I may also disclose health information about your child in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Research: In limited circumstances, I may use and disclose your PHI for research purposes. In all cases where your specific authorization is not obtained, your privacy will be protected by strict confidentiality requirements applied by an Institutional Review Board which oversees the research or by representations of the researchers that limit their use and disclosure of your information.

III. CERTAIN USES AND DISCLOSURES REQUIRE YOUR AUTHORIZATION:

1. *Psychotherapy Notes. I do keep psychotherapy notes as that term is defined in 45 CFR Â 164.501, and any use or disclosure of such notes requires your Authorization unless the use or disclosure is: a. For my use in treating you. b. For my use in training or supervising mental health practitioners to help them improve their skills in group, joint, family, or individual counseling or therapy. c. For my use in defending myself in legal proceedings instituted by you. d. For use by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to investigate my compliance with HIPAA. e. Required by law and the use or*

disclosure is limited to the requirements of such law. f. Required by law for certain health oversight activities pertaining to the originator of the psychotherapy notes. g. Required by a coroner who is performing duties authorized by law. h. Required to help avert a serious threat to the health and safety of others.

2. *Marketing Purposes. As a psychotherapist, I will not use or disclose your PHI for marketing purposes.*
3. *Sale of PHI. As a psychotherapist, I will not sell your PHI in the regular course of my business.*

IV. CERTAIN USES AND DISCLOSURES DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR AUTHORIZATION:

Subject to certain limitations in the law, I can use and disclose your PHI without your Authorization for the following reasons:

1. *When disclosure is required by state or federal law, and the use or disclosure complies with and is limited to the relevant requirements of such law.*
2. *For public health activities, including reporting suspected child, elder, or dependent adult abuse, or preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety.*
3. *For health oversight activities, including audits and investigations.*
4. *For judicial and administrative proceedings, including responding to a court or administrative order, although my preference is to obtain an Authorization from you before doing so.*
5. *For law enforcement purposes, including reporting crimes occurring on my premises.*
6. *To coroners or medical examiners, when such individuals are performing duties authorized by law.*
7. *For research purposes, including studying and comparing the mental health of patients who received one form of therapy versus those who received another form of therapy for the same condition.*
8. *Specialized government functions, including, ensuring the proper execution of military missions; protecting the President of the United States; conducting intelligence or counterintelligence operations; or, helping to ensure the safety of those working within or housed in correctional institutions.*
9. *For workers compensation purposes. Although my preference is to obtain an Authorization from you, I may provide your PHI in order to comply with workers compensation laws.*
10. *Appointment reminders and health related benefits or services. I may use and disclose your PHI to contact you to remind you that you have an appointment with me. I may also use and disclose your PHI to tell you about treatment alternatives, or other health care services or benefits that I offer.*

V. CERTAIN USES AND DISCLOSURES REQUIRE YOU TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT:

Others Involved in Your Health Care: Unless you object, I may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, your PHI that directly relates to that persons involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if I determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment. I may use or disclose PHI to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative or any other person that is responsible for the care of your location, general condition or death. Finally, we may use or disclose your PHI to an authorized public or private entity to assist in disaster relief efforts and to coordinate uses and disclosures to family or other individuals involved in your health care.

Emergencies: I may use or disclose your PHI in an emergency treatment situation. If this happens, I will try to obtain your consent as soon as reasonably practicable after the delivery of treatment. If your healthcare provider or another healthcare provider in our agency is required by law to treat you and the

healthcare provider has attempted to obtain your consent but is unable to obtain your consent, he or she may still use or disclose your PHI to treat you.

VI. YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR PHI:

1. *The Right to Request Limits on Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI.* You have the right to ask me not to use or disclose certain PHI for treatment, payment, or health care operations purposes. I am not required to agree to your request, and I may say no if I believe it would affect your health care.
2. *The Right to Request Restrictions for Out-of-Pocket Expenses Paid for In Full.* You have the right to request restrictions on disclosures of your PHI to health plans for payment or health care operations purposes if the PHI pertains solely to a health care item or a health care service that you have paid for out-of-pocket in full.
3. *The Right to Choose How I Send PHI to You.* You have the right to ask me to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address, and I will agree to all reasonable requests.
4. *The Right to See and Get Copies of Your PHI.* Other than psychotherapy notes, you have the right to get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record and other information that I have about you. I will provide you with a copy of your record, or a summary of it, if you agree to receive a summary, within 30 days of receiving your written request, and I may charge a reasonable, cost based fee for doing so.
5. *The Right to Get a List of the Disclosures I Have Made.* You have the right to request a list of instances in which I have disclosed your PHI for purposes other than treatment, payment, or health care operations, or for which you provided me with an Authorization. I will respond to your request for an accounting of disclosures within 60 days of receiving your request. The list I will give you will include disclosures made in the last six years unless you request a shorter time. I will provide the list to you at no charge, but if you make more than one request in the same year, I will charge you a reasonable cost based fee for each additional request.
6. *The Right to Correct or Update Your PHI.* If you believe that there is a mistake in your PHI, or that a piece of important information is missing from your PHI, you have the right to request that I correct the existing information or add the missing information. I may say no to your request, but I will tell you why in writing within 60 days of receiving your request.
7. *The Right to Get a Paper or Electronic Copy of this Notice.* You have the right get a paper copy of this Notice, and you have the right to get a copy of this notice by e-mail. And, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice via e-mail, you also have the right to request a paper copy of it.
8. *The Right to Notice of Breach:* We take very seriously the confidentiality of our clients information, and we are required by law to protect the privacy and security of your protected health information through appropriate safeguards. We will notify you in the event a breach occurs involving or potentially involving your unsecured health information and inform you of what steps you may need to take to protect yourself.
9. *The Right to Make a Complaint:* If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can file a complaint in writing with the Privacy Officer. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the below address. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.

Office for Civil Rights Department of HHS

Jacob Javits Federal Building

26 Federal Plaza - Suite 3312

New York, NY 10278

Voice Phone (212) 264-3313 FAX (212) 264-3039 TDD (212) 264-2355

For Further Information: If you have questions, need further assistance regarding or would like to submit a request pursuant to this Notice, you may contact me by phone at (323) 283-9316. You may also find a copy of this notice at wavesca.org.

Privacy Practices as Outlined above are effective as of August, 14, 2020. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Privacy Notice: Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), you have certain rights regarding the use and disclosure of your protected health information. By checking the box below, you are acknowledging that you have received a copy of HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices.

BY PROVIDING MY SIGNATURE I AM AGREEING THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

Client Signature _____

I consent to sharing information provided here