

HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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

Mark Pletcher, MA, LCPC, PC has been and will always be totally committed to maintaining clients confidentiality. We will only release healthcare information about you in accordance with federal and state laws and ethics of the counseling profession.

This notice describes our policies related to the use and disclosure of your healthcare information.

Uses and disclosures of your health information for the purposes of providing services.

Providing treatment services, collecting payment and conducting healthcare operations are necessary activities for quality care. State and federal laws allows us to use and disclose your health information for these purposes.

TREATMENT We may need to use or disclose health information about you to provide, manage or coordinate your care or related services. Which could include consultants and potential referral sources.

PAYMENT Information needed to verify insurance coverage and/or benefits with your insurance carrier, to process your claims as well as information needed for billing and collection purposes. We may bill the person in your family who pays for your insurance.

HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS We may need to use information about you to review our treatment procedures and business activity. Information maybe used for certification, compliance and licensing activities.

Other uses or disclosures of your information which does not require your consent. There are some instances where we may be required to use and disclose information without your consent. For example, but not limited to: Information you and/or your child or children report about physical or sexual abuse: then by Illinois State Law, we are obligated to report this to the Department of Children and Family Services. If you provide information that informs us that you are in danger of harming yourself or others. Information to remind you of *lor* to reschedule appointments or treatment alternatives. Information shared with law enforcement if a crime is committed on our premises or against our staff or as required by law such as a subpoena or court order.

CLIENT RIGHTS

Right to request how I contact you

It is my normal practice to communicate with you at your home address and daytime phone number you gave me when you scheduled your appointment, about health matters, such as

appointment reminders etc. Sometimes I may leave messages on your voicemail. You have the right to request that I communicate with you in a different way. May I contact you at home (circle one) yes **no**? May I contact you at work yes **no**? May I contact you by cell phone yes **no**?

Right to release your medical records

You may consent in writing to release your records to others. You have the right to revoke this authorization, in writing, at any time. However, a revocation is not valid to the extent that I have acted in reliance on such authorization.

Right to inspect and copy your medical and billing records.

You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your information contained in my medical records. To request access to your billing or health information, contact Mark Pletcher, MA, LCPC, PC. Under limited circumstance I may deny your request to inspect and copy. If you ask for a copy of any information, I may charge a reasonable fee for the costs of copying, mailing and supplies.

Right to add information or amend your medical records.

If you feel that information contained in your medical record is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask me to add information to amend the record. I will make a decision on your request with 60 days, or some cases within 90 days. Under certain circumstance, I may deny your request to add or amend information. If I deny your request, you have a right to file a statement that you disagree. Your statement and my response will be added to your record. To request an amendment, please contact me. I will require you to submit your request in writing and to provide an explanation concerning the reason for your request.

Right to an accounting of disclosures.

You have the right to request an accounting of disclosures, if any, which is a list of certain disclosures such as child or elder abuse, disclosures related to suicidal or homicidal threats, disclosures to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to evaluate compliance.

Right to request restrictions on uses and disclosures of your health information.

You have the right to ask for restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your health information. This request must be in writing and submitted to myself. However, I am not required to agree to such a request.

Right to complain about services.

An individual will not be retaliated against for filing such a complaint. If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, please contact me personally, and discuss your concerns. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may file a written complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Right to receive changes in policy.

You have the right to receive any future policy changes secondary to changes in state and federal laws. This can be obtained from Mark Pletcher, MA, LCPC, PC.