



Warnecke Professional Counseling
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Electronic Communications Agreement

Electronic communications, including but not limited to emails, internet-based video conferencing (through such applications as Skype, VSee, and FaceTime), texting, and cell phone calls (hereinafter "Electronic Communications"), provide an opportunity to communicate with your counselor relative to issues that are non-emergent, non-urgent, or non-critical. Electronic Communications are not a replacement for the interpersonal contact that is the very basis of the counselor-patient relationship.

The following is intended to assist you with your determination of whether you wish to supplement your counseling experience by electronically communicating with members of the counseling team at Warnecke Professional Counseling (WPC).

General Considerations — To the best of our ability, WPC will treat Electronic Communications with the same degree of privacy and confidentiality as written medical records, with the following limitations:

- Standard email services, including but not limited to Gmail, Yahoo, Live, AOL, and Hotmail, are not secure. This means that the email messages are not encrypted and can be intercepted and read by unauthorized individuals.
- Electronic Communications via internet-based video conference providers, including but not limited to Skype, claim to have safeguards in place to protect your personal information from unauthorized disclosure. However, there is the possibility that viruses, Trojans, or other malicious software may obtain your private information on your computer system and release and/or use your information without your knowledge. There may be other risks associated with internet communication which are unknown at this time.
- Transmitting email that contains protected health information through an email system that is not encrypted does not meet — and electronic communication via internet based video conference providers may not meet — the security guidelines as required by HIPAA.
- It is currently up to the individual clinician to choose the telecommunication software to best meet remote video session needs. If using tele-therapy, please direct specific questions to your therapist.

*Electronic Communications are NEVER appropriate for emergency problems!
In an emergency, please dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.*

I have read and understood the above description of the risks and responsibilities associated with Electronic Communications. I acknowledge that commonly used Electronic Communications are not secure and fall outside of the security requirements set forth by HIPAA.

I understand that I can withdraw this consent authorizing WPC to communicate with me via Electronic Communications at any time by providing written notification to WPC.

I release and hold harmless WPC, its counselors and their staff, employees, affiliates, agents, officers, directors and shareholders from any and all expenses, claims, actions, liabilities, attorney fees, damages, and losses of any kind that I may have resulting from Electronic Communications between WPC and me based on this authorization given to WPC to communicate with me via Electronic Communications.

Having been informed of the risks associated with Electronic Communications, I still desire to communicate with WPC via electronic communications. In consideration for my desire to use Electronic Communications as an adjunct to in-person office visits with my counselor, I hereby authorize WPC to engage in Electronic Communication with me.

Patient Signature

Date

Counselor Signature

Date