

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This page outlines my policies related to the use of Social Media. Please read it to understand how I conduct myself on the Internet as a mental health professional and how you can expect me to respond to various interactions that may occur between us on the Internet.

As new technology develops, and my use of the Internet changes, there may be times when I need to update this policy. If I do so, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy.

TEXTING

I prefer using mobile phone text messaging and regular email only to arrange or modify appointments. Please do not text or email me content related to your therapy, as these modes of communication are not secure or confidential. In addition there is no way to validate your identity, messages could go to the wrong person, and these messages are not encrypted nor can they be archived in your record.

EMAILING

The alternative to this is signing up for portal access to your account through my program, Therapy Appointment. This portal allows secure access to many things, including encrypted email messages that will go directly into your you file. If you wish to email me confidential information of any kind, this is the way to do that- that includes pretty much ANY information beyond scheduling.

You can contact me either through email or phone. I respond to both during the work week within 24 hours and weekend calls will be returned on Monday.

PATIENT PORTAL

As noted in the email section, there is a patient portal. To sign up for this, you will receive a form at your first appointment where you select a log in name and password. I will input this data to your account after our first session. Through this you can eventually be able to access your schedule, cancel appointments, see your bill and pay it, and send secure emails. I request that everyone sign up for this but you do not have to. If you have questions, please ask.

FRIENDING

I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.). I believe that adding clients as contacts on these sites can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship.

FOLLOWING

At this point in time, I do not have a blog or Twitter stream. I do NOT follow current or former clients on blogs or Twitter. I believe that viewing your online activities without a specific agreement between us could potentially have a negative influence on our working relationship. If there are things from your online life that you wish to share with me, please bring them into our therapy sessions where we can view and explore them together.

USE OF SEARCH ENGINES

It is not part of my practice to search for clients on Google or Bing or other search engines unless there is a clinical need to do so, as in the case of a crisis, or to assure your physical well-being. If I ever have to resort to such means, I will fully document it and discuss it when we next meet.

I have read the above and agree. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about these policies.

Name

Date