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## **TELEPSYCHOLOGY CONSENT FORM**

“Telepsychology” means the practice of psychology using electronic communications, information technology or other means between a licensee in one location, and a patient in another location with or without an intervening healthcare provider. Generally, telepsychology is not an audio-only, telephone conversation, e-mail/instant messaging conversation, or fax. It typically involves the application of secure technology to provide or support healthcare delivery by replacing the in-person encounter. Research to date regarding telepsychology validates its effectiveness. This requires sharing protected health information with vendors, and I have a Business Associates Agreement with these vendors. I use VSee, which is a HIPAA compliant audio-video platform for telepsychology; it also offers private and HIPAA compliant messaging, as does my psychotherapy software Office Ally, and you can also send me a private HIPAA compliant message via my website.

I hold active licenses in psychology in California, Colorado, Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana. Laws governing the practice of telemedicine vary from state to state, and reimbursement through insurance also varies according to state law and the specific insurance company in question. Please contact your insurance company to determine if telepsychology or telehealth session will be covered by your insurance, and read more about my insurance policies in the “Outpatient Services Contract.” You will be responsible for all fees that are not covered by your insurance. Billing documentation for these services may include the type of technology used and the type of service provided. The same fee structures apply as outlined in my “Outpatient Services Contract.”

All laws concerning privacy and access of medical records still apply to telepsychology. You may withdraw your consent to telepsychology at any time. Additionally, the psychologist may determine that you need in-person care and refer you to a local practitioner, or work in conjunction with local practitioners.

While there are many advantages of using telepsychology services (convenience; not having to drive to an appointment; much less overall time involved; broader range of choice in providers), there are some potential disadvantages. There may be complications on either end regarding hardware and/or software failures. The technology we use is HIPAA compliant, and all records

are kept in password protected encrypted files. There may be some services that cannot be offered via telepsychology, such as certain test administrations. Should you miss your appointment due to your own technical difficulties which could have been prevented, you will be charged for the appointment. If you have emergencies or power outages that could not be prevented, you will not be charged. If I have a technical difficulty that could not have been prevented, we will reschedule. If I have other technical difficulties that I may have prevented, I will not charge you for the missed appointment and will reschedule. Either way, please call or text me if you have issues, and I will do the same.

- There are potential benefits and risks of video-conferencing (e.g. limits to patient confidentiality) that differ from in-person sessions.
- Confidentiality still applies for telepsychology services, and nobody will record the session without the permission from the others person(s).
- We agree to use the video-conferencing platform selected for our virtual sessions, and the psychologist will explain how to use it.
- You need to use a webcam, tablet or smartphone during the session.
- It is important to be in a quiet, private space that is free of distractions (including cell phone or other devices) during the session.
- It is important to use a secure internet connection rather than public/free Wi-Fi.
- It is important to be on time. If you need to cancel or change your tele-appointment, you must notify the psychologist in advance by phone or email.
- We need a back-up plan (e.g., phone number where you can be reached) to restart the session or to reschedule it, in the event of technical problems.
- We need a safety plan that includes at least one emergency contact, the phone for your local law enforcement agency, and the closest emergency room to your location, in the event of a crisis situation.
- If you are not an adult, we need the permission of your parent or legal guardian (and their contact information) for you to participate in telepsychology sessions.
- You should confirm with your insurance company that the video sessions will be reimbursed; if they are not reimbursed, you are responsible for full payment.
- As your psychologist, I may determine that due to certain circumstances, telepsychology is no longer appropriate and that we should resume our sessions in-person.

I have read and agree to receive services by telepsychology.

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Signature of Patient or Patient's Representative      Date

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Relationship of Representative to Patient Name of Interpreter(if any)

