

Informed Consent for In-Person Services During COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to use in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis (hereinafter referred to as the "Virus"). Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between us.

Decision to Meet In-Person

We have agreed to meet in-person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, you understand that, if I believe it is necessary, I may determine that we delay meeting and/or choose to meet by telehealth for everyone's well-being. If you decide at any time that you would feel safer by delaying or beginning telehealth services, I will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate.

Risks of Opting for In-Person Services

You understand that by coming into our office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the Virus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, taxi or ride sharing service. Please be assured, however, that we are taking a number of precautions at our office to protect our clients and staff from the spread of the Virus.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, me, our staff, families and other clients) safer from exposure. By signing this document you acknowledge that you understand and agree to each of these actions:

- you will keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free
- if you have symptoms of the Virus, or other symptoms of illness, you will cancel the appointment immediately. If you wish to cancel for this reason, we will waive the normal cancellation fee
- you will wait in your car or outside until contacted by me or our staff when the office is prepared for you to enter
- you will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building
- you will keep a distance of 6 feet (2 metres) from me and all other staff and there will be no physical contact
- currently, the decision to wear a mask indoors is optional: if you wish to wear a mask, you may do so and if you prefer that I wear a mask, I will also do so
- if the City of Hamilton decides upon mandatory masks in public spaces, you agree to wear a mask during our sessions
- you will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to the Virus
- if a resident of your home tests positive for the Virus, or is symptomatic of the Virus or other illness, or you believe you may have been exposed to the Virus in any other way, you will immediately let us know and we will decide on appropriate arrangements.

We may change the above precautions if additional local, provincial or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will communicate any necessary changes with you.

My Commitment to Minimize Exposure

Our office is taking steps to reduce the risk of spreading the Virus within the office and we have posted our efforts in the office. Please let us know if you have questions about these efforts.

If One of Us is Sick

We are committed to taking precautions to keep you, me, our staff and our families safe from the spread of the Virus.

If any of us have tested positive for the Virus, we will inform you as quickly as possible to discuss appropriate precautions. If we believe I, or any of our staff, have a fever or other symptoms of the Virus or other illness, or believe we may have been exposed to the Virus, I or my staff will be in contact with you as soon as possible to cancel our appointment and if appropriate, make other arrangements.

If you have tested positive for the Virus or feel you have been exposed to the Virus, you will inform us immediately to discuss and/or implement appropriate precautions. If you arrive for an appointment and we believe you have a fever or other symptoms of the Virus or other illness, or believe you have been exposed to the Virus, we will ask you to leave the office immediately. We will follow up with alternatives as appropriate.

Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection

In case of contact tracing, we may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in our office. In addition, we are keeping a daily attendance log which we may use to provide information to Public Health should a case of the Virus be associated with our office or one of our clients or staff. If we have to report this, we will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and we will not provide any detail regarding the reason for your visit. By signing this form, you are agreeing that we may share this information without any additional signed release.

Dawn Zivanovich, MSW, RSW



Informed Consent

Your signature below attests that you agree to these terms and conditions...

Client Signature

Date