

ANNE M. PINCUS, PH.D
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST # PSY 17590

Client Information and Office Policy Statement
Informed Consent

I. New Client: Welcome!

Thank you for choosing to enter treatment. This is an opportunity to acquaint you with information relevant to treatment, confidentiality and office policies. Your therapist will answer any questions you have regarding any of these policies.

II. Aims and Goals:

The major goal is to help you identify and cope more effectively with problems in daily living and to deal with inner conflicts which may disrupt your ability to function effectively. This purpose is accomplished by:

1. Increasing personal awareness.
2. Increasing personal responsibility and acceptance to make changes necessary to attain your goals.
3. Identifying personal treatment goals.
4. Promoting wholeness through psychological and spiritual healing and growth.

You are responsible for providing necessary information to facilitate effective treatment. You are expected to play an active role in your treatment, including working with your therapist to outline your treatment goals and assess your progress. There may also be negative consequences if you do not follow through with recommended treatment(s).

You may be asked to complete questionnaires or to do homework assignments. Your progress in therapy often depends much more on what you do between sessions than on what happens in the session.

I. Appointments:

Appointments are usually scheduled for 50 minutes. The practice's hours are M-F 8am-7pm. Patients are generally seen weekly or more/less frequently as acuity dictates and you and your therapist agree. You may discontinue treatment at any time, but please discuss any decisions with your therapist. In the event of an emergency, your therapist may be reached at (no pager) (415) 431-3331. If you are unable to reach your psychiatrist or therapist, you may call your primary care physician or the local emergency room, or a crisis hotline.

II. Confidentiality:

Issues discussed in therapy are important and are generally legally protected as both confidential and "privileged". However, there are limits to the privilege of confidentiality. These situations include: 1.) suspected abuse or neglect of a child, elderly person or a disabled person, 2.) when your psychiatrist or therapist believes you are in danger of harming yourself or another person or you are unable to care for yourself, 3.) if you report that you intend to physically injure someone the law requires your therapist to inform that person as well as the legal authorities, 4.) if your psychiatrist or therapist is ordered by a court to release information as part of a legal involvement in company litigation, etc., 5.) when your insurance company is involved, e.g. in

(continued p. 2)

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filing a claim, insurance audits, case review or appeals, etc., 6.) in natural disasters whereby protected records may become exposed or 7.) when otherwise required by law. You may be asked to sign a Release of Information so that you therapist may speak with other mental health professionals or to family members.

III. Record Keeping:

A clinical chart is maintained describing your condition and your treatment and progress in treatment, dates of and fees for sessions, and notes describing each therapy session. Your records will not be released without your written consent, unless in those situations as outlined in the Confidentiality section above. Medical records are locked and kept on site.

IV. Fees:

Fee for the initial visit is \$190/\$165 or based on sliding scale.

Each 45-50 minute session thereafter is the same as the above.

If for any reason I am required to go to court on your behalf, my charges for such services will be twice my highest usual and customary rate at that time. This will include all time spent in travel.

V. Payments:

Payment is due at the end of each month. With the exception of Medicare, payment is due in full and you are responsible to file with your own insurance company with the use of a Superbill that I will provide. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with your insurance benefits.

VI. Cancellations and Missed Appointments:

You will be billed for a session that you cancel with less than 48 hours notice except in the case of true emergency. You may leave messages 24 hours per day. You will be billed full fee – not just co-payment. Insurance companies generally do not reimburse for failed appointments.

VII. Complaints:

You have a right to have your complaints heard and resolved in a timely manner. If you have a complaint about your treatment, your psychotherapist, or any office policy please inform us immediately and discuss the situation. If you do not feel the complaint has been resolved, you may also inform your insurance carrier and file a complaint if you so choose.

VIII. Consent for Treatment

By signing below, you are stating that you have read and understood this 2-page policy statement and you have had your questions answered to your satisfaction.

I accept, understand and agree to abide by the contents and terms of this agreement and further, consent to participate in evaluation and/or treatment. I understand that I may withdraw from treatment at any time.

Name of patient: (please print) _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Therapist/Witness: _____