

Limits of Confidentiality

Confidentiality is the cornerstone of the counseling process; without it, a therapeutic level of honesty cannot be achieved. However, please note that the only thing more important to me than confidentiality is your personal safety and the safety of those around you. Please review the following confidentiality limits prior to beginning the counseling relationship:

Duty to Warn

If a client is threatening serious bodily harm to himself or herself, the counselor is legally and ethically obligated to ensure the client's safety by contacting the police.

If a client is threatening serious bodily harm to another person or group of people, the counselor is legally and ethically obligated to contact the police and to notify the intended person or group in danger.

Please note that all gestures, comments and suicidal/homicidal ideations will be taken seriously.

Child or Elder Abuse

If a client mentions any information whatsoever regarding suspected child or dependent elder abuse, the counselor is legally and ethically obligated to notify the police.

Please note that all Tennessee residents are legally obligated to report suspected child or elder abuse.

Prenatal Exposure to Alcohol or Drugs

If a client is pregnant and admits to currently using alcohol or drugs, the counselor is legally and ethically obligated to notify Child Protective Services.

Minor Clients

All clients under the age of 16 are considered *minors* and do not have any legally protected confidentiality. A minor client must allow his or her parent or guardian to be involved in the counseling relationship. However, please note that I will still try to provide the greatest amount of confidentiality allowed by the parent or guardian.

Please note that in the state of Tennessee, all clients age 16 and older are considered *adults* regarding mental health treatment. He or she can sign all paperwork and decide who will be involved in his or her treatment.

By signing this form you acknowledge and understand the above information.

Name

Date