



## **OUTPATIENT SERVICES CONTRACT**

Welcome to our group practice. This document contains important information about our professional services and business policies. Please read it carefully and make note of any questions that you might have so that we can discuss them during our session. **Please sign your initials on the line provided following each section, indicating that you have read and agreed to our policies. When you sign this document, it will represent an agreement between you and Logical Behavioral Health (“Provider”).**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES:** Psychotherapy is not easily described in general statements. It varies depending on the personalities of the psychotherapist and the patient, and the particular difficulties with which you are struggling. There are many different methods the Provider may use to deal with the problems that you address. Psychotherapy is different from a medical doctor visit in that it calls for a very active effort on your part. In order for the therapy to be most successful, you will have to work on material discussed both during and in between sessions.

Psychotherapy can have benefits and risks. Since therapy often involves discussing unpleasant aspects of your life, you may experience uncomfortable feelings such as sadness, guilt, anger, frustration, loneliness, and helplessness. Psychotherapy has also been shown to have many benefits. Therapy often leads to stronger, more communicative relationships, solutions to specific problems, and significant reductions in feelings of distress. There are no guarantees as to what you will experience.

The first few sessions will involve an evaluation of your needs. The Provider will be gathering information regarding your background, presenting difficulties, and current mental health symptoms in order to formulate a clinical diagnosis. By the end of the evaluation, the Provider will be able to offer you some first impressions of what treatment will include and a treatment plan to follow. Subsequent sessions may include on-going assessment, treatment, scheduling, discussion of insurance benefits/past due fees, and other administrative details. If you have any questions about your treatment, they should be discussed as they arise.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**APPOINTMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS:** The Provider will usually schedule one 45 to 55 minute session per week at a mutually convenient time. Appointment scheduling will occur at the conclusion of each session. The scheduling of an appointment involves the reservation of time set specifically for you and the Provider. In the event that you need to cancel an appointment, **please inform the Provider of your cancellation by 12:00PM PST one business day in advance.** Please be advised that insurance companies usually

do not cover missed or cancelled appointments. Therefore, you are responsible for the **full session fee** for all missed and canceled appointments noncompliant with the cancellation policies. Illness is not an exception unless accompanied by medical documentation.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**PROFESSIONAL FEES:** The fee for service is \$225 for master's level therapists (LMFT & LCSW) and \$275 for doctoral level therapists (Ph.D., & Psy.D.). In addition to weekly appointments, the Provider will charge this amount pro rata for other professional services, including but not limited to, telephone conversations lasting longer than 10 minutes, report writing, attendance at meeting with other professionals you have authorized, preparation of records/treatment summaries, and time spent performing other services requested. Please be advised that the Provider has 15 days to provide letters and treatment summaries, and 30 days to provide treatment records from the time of request. If you become involved in legal proceedings that require the Provider's participation, you will be expected to pay the professional rate even if the Provider is called to testify by another party.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**BILLING AND PAYMENTS:** You will be expected to pay at the beginning of each session (via cash, check, or card), whether you are utilizing private pay or health insurance benefits. Health insurance companies will often cover a portion of the cost of psychotherapy. If you are planning on utilizing your health insurance benefits, please be advised that you may be expected to pay the contracted amount upfront, depending on your plan, deductible, and whether or not the Provider is in-network. On occasion, mental health insurance rates (i.e. contracted rates, co-payments/co-insurance rates, deductibles) may change during the course of treatment. Please be advised that should your rates change, you will be expected to pay the difference for these services.

Payment schedules for other professional services will be agreed to when they are requested.

You are responsible for ensuring that your account balance is paid in full. If your account has not been paid for more than 60 days and arrangements for payment have not been agreed upon, the Provider will have the option of using legal means to secure the payment. This may involve hiring a collection agency or going through small claims court. If such legal action is necessary, such costs will be included in the claim. In most collections situations, the only information released is information regarding a patient's treatment, his/her contact information, the nature of services provided, and the amount due.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**INSURANCE BENEFITS:** It is important to evaluate what resources you have available to pay for your treatment. If you have a health insurance policy, it is your responsibility to determine whether or not you have coverage and what kind of coverage you have prior to

each appointment. Please be advised that you will be responsible for any and all claims denied or unpaid by insurance. If you have questions about the coverage, call your health plan administrator. In order for you to receive your insurance benefits, you will be required to authorize the Provider to provide a mental health diagnosis and dates of service. The Provider may have to provide additional clinical information such as treatment plans, summaries, or copies of the entire record (in rare cases). This information will become part of the insurance company records and the Provider will have no control over what they do with it once it is in their possession. It is important to remember that you always have the right to pay for services via private pay to avoid the problems described above.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**CONTACTING ME:** The Provider may not be immediately available by telephone. In the event the Provider is unavailable, you may leave a confidential voice message. The Provider will make every effort to return your call within one business day, with the exception of weekends and holidays. Email and text are not secure ways of communicating personal and confidential information.

If an emergency situation arises, you may call and leave a message stating the nature of the emergency and a telephone number at which you can be reached. The Provider will make every effort to return your call immediately. You may also dial 911 for immediate assistance or dial 988, which is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. If the Provider will be unavailable for an extended period of time, a qualified professional will be available for you to contact during his or her absence.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**PROFESSIONAL RECORDS:** The laws and standards of our profession require that the Provider keep treatment records. You are entitled to receive a copy or summary of your records. These professional records can be misinterpreted by untrained readers. Therefore, if you wish to view your records, it is recommended that you review them in the Provider's presence so that you can discuss the contents.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**MINORS:** If you are under eighteen years of age, please be aware that the law may provide your parents the right to examine your treatment records. It is our policy to request a verbal agreement from parents that they agree to give up access to your records. If they agree, the Provider will provide them only with general information about your work together, unless there is a risk that you will be seriously harmed, seriously harm yourself, or someone else. In this case, the provider will notify them of the concern. The Provider will also provide them with a summary of your treatment when it is complete. Before giving them any information, the Provider will discuss the matter with you, if possible, and do their best to handle any objections you may have with what the Provider is prepared to discuss.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** In general, the privacy of all communications between a patient and a psychologist, including that of minors, is protected by law. Therefore, the Provider is not at liberty to release information to another professional or interested party without written permission except where disclosure is permitted or required by law. There are some situations in which the Provider is legally obligated to take action to protect others from harm, even if he or she has to reveal some information about a patient's treatment. Disclosure may be required in the following circumstances:

- (1) When there is a reasonable suspicion of child abuse, elder abuse, or abuse of a dependent adult (i.e., an adult who relies on the care of others). In this case, the Provider is required by law to file a report with the appropriate state agency.
- (2) If the Provider believes that a patient is threatening serious bodily harm to another, he or she is required to take protective actions. These actions may include notifying the potential victim, contacting the police, or seeking hospitalization for the patient.
- (3) If the patient threatens serious bodily harm to himself/herself, the Provider may be obligated to seek hospitalization for him/her or to contact a family member or others who can help provide protection.
- (4) When disclosure is required pursuant to a legal proceeding (i.e., court order).
- (5) In the event that the services occurred in our practice. If a similar situation occurs, the Provider will make every effort to fully discuss it with you before taking any action.

The Provider may occasionally find it helpful to consult other professionals about a case. During a consultation, neither your name nor identifying information about you will be revealed. The consultant also is legally bound to keep the information confidential.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**TERMINATION:** The Provider reserves the right to terminate therapy at his or her discretion due to nonpayment, noncompliance with treatment recommendations, conflicts of interest, nonparticipation in therapy, lack of progress in therapy, or if your needs are outside the scope of competence or practice. You also have the right to terminate therapy at any time. Unless special arrangements have been made, a duration of 30 days or longer with no clinical activity is subject to having your chart closed.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

## CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize and request that \_\_\_\_\_, provide psychological assessments, examinations, treatment, and/or diagnostic procedures which are advisable during the course of my care as a patient. The frequency and type of treatment provided will be decided between me and my therapist.

I understand that there is an expectation that I will benefit from psychotherapy but there is no guarantee that this will occur.

I understand that maximum benefit will occur with consistent attendance and that, at times, I may feel conflicted about my therapy as the process can sometimes be uncomfortable.

I understand that my participation in psychotherapy is completely voluntary and that I may terminate psychotherapy at anytime.

I have received a copy of the *Outpatient Services Contract*. I understand that the purpose of these guidelines is to clarify the nature of our professional relationship.

My signature below indicates that I have read and fully understand the information in the *Outpatient Services Contract* and I agree to abide by its terms during our professional relationship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian/Financial Guarantor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date