



**Parent/Guardian Information**

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street city state zip

Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (work/home) \_\_\_\_\_ best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

May I have permission to contact you and leave a message through

☐ Cell VM ☐ Cell Text ☐ Home/Work VM ☐ Email

Marital Status

☐ single  
☐ engaged  
☐ married (how long) \_\_\_\_\_ number of times married \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ separated (how long) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ divorced (how long) \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Second Parent/Guardian Education \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

List those in your family: name, birth date, sex, and relationship to you (biological, step-children, foster or adoptive children, etc.). Indicate if they are living in your home.

First and last name	Birth date	Sex	Relationship	At home
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Client Information**

Adolescent/Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Education level \_\_\_\_\_ Attending school? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_ No School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you share custody of your child? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Do you have primary custody? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

*(If you share custody and have primary custody of your child, please make a copy of the legal document stating such.)*

**Please fill out the following information as it applies to the CLIENT.**

Please state why you are seeking out counseling. \_\_\_\_\_



What is the intensity of this problem and the impact on your quality of life? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you struggled with this same issue before? If so, when? How did you handle it before? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the first time you felt this way. What were you doing? \_\_\_\_\_

What does a typical day look like for you? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your most difficult relationship right now? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your most difficult emotion right now? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had any prior counseling? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_ With whom? \_\_\_\_\_

For what purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell me about your previous counseling experience. \_\_\_\_\_

Are you, or another family member, currently seeing a psychiatrist or another counselor? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If so, which family member? \_\_\_\_\_ Name of helper \_\_\_\_\_

For what purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

### **CRISIS INFORMATION**

Do you have any current suicidal thoughts, feelings, or actions?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being minimal and 10 being severe), how intense are these feelings? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you acted on any part of these thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, tell me about that. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had any suicidal acts or attempts before? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No If yes, how many previous attempts? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe the method used \_\_\_\_\_

Did anyone know of the attempts? \_\_\_\_\_



Any current homicidal or assaultive thoughts or feelings, or anger-control problems?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any past problems, hospitalizations, or jailings for suicidal or assaultive behavior?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a history of or are presently self harming?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any current threats of financial hardship or legal issues?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Any current threats of significant loss or harm (family relationships, illness, divorce, custody, job loss, etc.)?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you or others describe you as impulsive?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you consider yourself a "burden" to others?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you or someone in your home own a firearm? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

### **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

State of health \_\_\_\_\_ Resides in \_\_\_\_\_

If deceased, how long ago was the loss? \_\_\_\_\_

List three words that best describe your father (e.g. loving, mean, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do/did you get along? \_\_\_\_\_



Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

State of health \_\_\_\_\_ Resides in \_\_\_\_\_

If deceased, how long ago was the loss? \_\_\_\_\_

List three words that best describe your mother (e.g., loving, mean, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

How do/did you get along? \_\_\_\_\_

Step-Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

State of health \_\_\_\_\_ Resides in \_\_\_\_\_

If deceased, how long ago was the loss? \_\_\_\_\_

List three words that best describe your step-father (e.g. loving, mean, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

How do/did you get along? \_\_\_\_\_

Step- Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

State of health \_\_\_\_\_ Resides in \_\_\_\_\_

If deceased, how long ago was the loss? \_\_\_\_\_

List three words that best describe your step-mother (e.g. loving, mean, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

How do/did you get along? \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers and sisters: Please list in birth order.

First name	Age	Resides In	Relationship Now		
			Close	Distant	In between
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Your happiest memories of you and your family as a child are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your most unpleasant memories of you and your family as a child are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Have you ever experienced any of the following?

- ☐ Harsh physical punishment or abuse
- ☐ Sexual advances made toward you by an adult, family member, or older peer
- ☐ Sexual abuse
- ☐ Incest
- ☐ Rape
- ☐ Verbal or emotional abuse

(Please be reminded of my limits of confidentiality as it pertains to protecting you. I am ethically and legally required to inform your parent or guardian as well as the authorities if you have been sexually or physically abused by an adult, family member, and/or older peer.)

If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE HISTORY

Are you presently, or have you in the past used alcohol on a regular basis? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list type of drink (e.g. beer, wine, whiskey, etc.), frequency of use, when you began use, and approximate date of last use \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently, or have you in the past, used any non-prescription drug(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list name of drug(s), frequency of use, when you began use, and approximate date of last use \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please list any current medical problems or symptoms you are concerned about.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please give information concerning all prescription or over the counter medications being taken. (Include vitamins, laxatives, diet pills, hormones, birth control, etc.)

Name	Dosage/How often	Reason Taken	Taken how long	Reaction
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



**Resiliency and Strengths:** Check any areas that apply and add what is unique about you.

- ☐ Supportive social network (friend(s), family, etc.)
- ☐ Responsible to family and others
- ☐ Engaged in school
- ☐ Ability to overcome difficult circumstances/events in the past
- ☐ Hobbies/Interests: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Frustration tolerance
- ☐ Ability to manage stress
- ☐ Strong desire to live life
- ☐ Pet(s)

**Check any of the following that you  
have experienced or identify with.**

- ☐ Anger
- ☐ Detachment/numbness
- ☐ Nightmares
- ☐ Anxiety disorder
- ☐ Panic attacks
- ☐ Phobias or severe fears
- ☐ Mood swings
- ☐ Racing thoughts
- ☐ Lack of concentration
- ☐ Memory loss
- ☐ Fainting spells, feeling light headed or dizzy
- ☐ Loneliness
- ☐ Difficulty managing time
- ☐ Difficulty making decisions
- ☐ Low energy
- ☐ Lack of appetite
- ☐ Shyness
- ☐ Premenstrual syndrome
- ☐ Empty nest
- ☐ Low self-esteem
- ☐ Bullying
- ☐ Feeling of being outside oneself
- ☐ Disorganized thoughts
- ☐ Pornography
- ☐ Peer pressure

**Check any of the following that you have  
experienced and indicate how recently.**

- ☐ Relationship issues \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Separation/divorce of parents/guardians \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Family conflict \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Obsessive/compulsive thoughts \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Digestive problems \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Depression \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Sleep difficulties \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Hallucinations \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Violence in the home \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Anxiety \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Blacking out \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Hearing voices \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Sexual addiction \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Weight gain/or loss \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Self Harm \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Sexual issues \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Pregnancy \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Abortion \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Manic Depression/Bipolar Disorder \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Alcohol abuse/chemical substance use \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Suicidal ideation \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Homicidal ideation \_\_\_\_\_



Have you experienced a psychiatric hospitalization (when, how long, reason for admission) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you experienced other mental or emotional problems (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Prescribing Physician's name \_\_\_\_\_ Date last seen \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinating medical treatment is effective for your overall benefit. Please indicate if I may contact your prescribing physician to coordinate your treatment?     \_\_\_ Yes     \_\_\_ No

Consenting signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Spirituality**

Do you consider spirituality meaningful to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Level of meaningfulness of religious affiliation now     \_\_\_ high     \_\_\_ medium     \_\_\_ low

Additional information regarding your spiritual beliefs \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Emergency Contact**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Who referred you to me? \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# STATEMENT OF PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

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**Katherine Arnold, MAMFC, LMFT-SC, LPC-S**  
27999 Old Walker South Rd, Suite G  
Walker, La. 70785  
(225) 287-5714

**Qualifications:** I earned a Masters of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2013. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor LPC-S #5845 and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist – Supervisor Candidate LMFT #1259 registered with the Louisiana LPC Board of Examiners, 11410 Lake Sherwood Avenue North Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 295-8444.

**Counseling Relationship:** Counseling is a partnership built on trust and commitment. The therapeutic process requires the openness and willingness of the client in consistent effort and practice. Goals will be established in collaboration with the client and often require assignments between sessions. The overall goal of therapy and treatment is always resolution of the issues considered most important to the client through the collaborative process.

**Areas of Focus:** I focus on clients with marriage and family issues, anger, stress, depression, anxiety, and life issues. I also focus on personal growth and career counseling. I am a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapist (AAMFT), Louisiana Marriage and Family Therapist (LAMFT), and American Association of Christian Counseling (AACC).

**Fees and Office Procedures:** The fee for each 45-50 minute session is \$120.00. Checks can be made to Present Hope Counseling. Should a session be planned for 90-minutes, the fee will be in accordance to 2 sessions. Payment for services is due at the close of each session.

Appointments are typically set at the close of each session. Should you need to reschedule or cancel, please call or text my business phone at (225) 287-5714. A 24-hour notice is required for reschedules or cancellations. You will be charged for appointments missed or sessions rescheduled/cancelled within 24-hours of scheduled appointment time.

**Services Offered and Clients Served:** One approach to counseling is from an emotional focused interaction. Another cognitive-behavioral perspective; patterns of thoughts and actions are explored in order to understand the clients' problems and develop solutions. Yet, another approach is a systems strategy where the interactional patterns and dynamics within the family systems are explored. I consider the clients' immediate family relationships and larger social context as being important resources in solving life's problems. I approach therapy from an eclectic approach based on the client's goals and needs. Specific therapy models used, but not limited to, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Family Systems Therapy, Emotional Focused Therapy, EMDR, and play therapy. I work with clients in a variety of formats, including individually, as couples, and as families of various ethnic backgrounds. I also conduct group therapy. I see clients eight years or older.

**Code of Conduct:** As a LPC and LMFT, I am required by law to adhere to Code of Conduct that has been adopted by my licensing board, the Louisiana LPC Board of Examiners. A copy of the Code of Conduct is available to you upon request.

**Confidentiality:** Client confidentiality is an essential part of the counseling process. Materials revealed in counseling will remain strictly confidential except for material shared with my Supervisor and under the following circumstances, in accordance with State law:

1. The client signs a written release of information indicating informed consent of such release.
2. The client expresses intent to harm him/herself or someone else.
3. There is a reasonable suspicion of abuse/neglect against a minor child, an elderly person (60 or older), or a dependent or disabled adult.
4. A court order is received directing the disclosure of information.

In the event of marriage or family counseling, material obtained from an adult client individually may be shared with the client's spouse or other family members with the client's written permission. Clients may refuse to provide written permission to waive confidentiality rights between or among each other. Please be advised that withholding information from each other during couple or family therapy could impede or even prevent a positive outcome to therapy. Any material obtain from a minor client may be shared with the client's parent or guardian.

**Privileged Communication:** It is my policy to assert privileged communication on behalf of the client and the right to consult with the client if at all possible, except during an emergency, before mandated disclosure. I will endeavor to apprise clients of all mandated disclosures as conceivable.

Please note: We live in a society that is connected by cell phones, email, and many social media platforms available; client communication can not be one-hundred percent guaranteed to be private. I want you to be aware of the risks of such methods of communication. If you communicate confidential or private information via SMS (text), by phone, or through e-mail, I will assume that you have made an informed decision, having been made aware of the risk.

**Texting:** Text messaging is insecure and I will only text you for the purpose of scheduling or if there is an urgent matter that we must discuss, and I can't reach you another way. If appointment information or general business matters need to be communicated to me, text messaging is fine, but no official counseling will take place via messaging.

**Social Media:** I do not accept "friend" requests or similar connections with clients, their family members or friends on social media. This is to protect your confidentiality and privacy. If you choose to "like" the business's professional Facebook page or comment on posts/blogs, please know this will connect you to our business and we will assume you have made an informed decision to do so. Online relationships can create security risks as well as therapeutic risks. Please note that any social media apps you use may seek to connect you with me or with other visitors to this office through a "people you may know" or similar feature. I have no control over apps that may intrude on the privacy of your treatment in this way. If you would like to minimize the risk of others becoming aware of your connection to me or this office, please make use of the privacy controls available on your



# STATEMENT OF PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

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phone/device. Turning off a social media app's ability to know your location and refusing it access to your email account, contacts, and history in your phone, protects your privacy and confidentiality.

**Emergency Situations:** Please note, I do not guarantee immediate accessibility or response. I do not answer email, text, or phone calls/messages when I am with other clients, afterhours, weekends, vacations, or holidays. When I am unavailable, you may choose to leave a message, email, or text and I will respond as soon as possible. In an emergency situation when an immediate response is necessary, you may call the Baton Rouge Intervention Center (225) 924-3900 or 1-800-437-0303, your primary care physician, the local emergency room, or call 911. The Livingston OLOL emergency room located at 5000 O'Donovan Blvd., Walker, Louisiana. The telephone number is (225) 271-6000.

**Client Responsibilities:** You, the client, are full partner in counseling. Your honesty and effort are essential to success. As we work together, if you have suggestions or concerns about your counseling, goals, treatment, etc., I expect you to share these with me so that we can make the necessary adjustments. If homework is warranted to aid in the therapeutic treatment plan, you are responsible to complete the assignments between sessions. If you are currently receiving services from another mental health professional, I expect you to inform me of this and grant me permission to share information with this professional so that we may coordinate our services to you. In the event, that I am unable to therapeutically treat you and determine that another mental health provider would better serve you, I will help you with the referral process.

**Physical Health:** Physical health can be an important factor in the emotional well-being of an individual. If you have not had a physical examination in the last year, it is recommended that you do so. Also, please provide me with a list of the medications that you are current taking and a history of any pre-existing mental or physical diagnosis.

**Potential Counseling Risk:** The client should be aware that counseling poses potential risks. In the course of working together, additional problems may surface of which you were not initially aware. Marital therapy involving only one spouse may lead to adverse responses from the other spouse. Changes in relationship patterns that may result from family therapy may produce unpredicted and/or possibility adverse responses from other people in the clients' social system. If this occurs, you should feel free to share these concerns with me.

I have read the Statement of Practices and Procedures of Katherine Arnold, MAMFC, LPC, LMFT and my signature below indicates my full informed consent to services provided by Katherine Arnold, MAMFC, LPC, LMFT. I am aware that Mrs. Katherine Arnold may share information with other MFT and LPCs for the sole purpose of peer consultation and/or supervision toward certifications, education, or training purposes. I am also aware that my sessions with Katherine Arnold, MAMFC, LPC, LMFT may be audio or videotaped for the purpose of supervision.

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**Client Signature**

**Date**

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**Katherine Arnold, MAMFC, LPC-S, LMFT-SC**

**Date**

## **Parent/Guardian Consent for Treatment of a Minor:**

If the client is a minor, parental authorization provides informed consent for all the above: I \_\_\_\_\_ give permission for Katherine  
(name of parent or legal guardian)

Arnold, MAMFC, LMFT, LPC to conduct therapy with my \_\_\_\_\_,  
(relationship) (name of minor)

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**Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian**

**Date**



## Financial Policy

### Fees and Payment

The full session fee is \$120 for 50 minutes. Payments must be made prior to the start of each session and may be made in cash, credit card, or by personal check. If a parent or third party is paying for the session, the client is still responsible for making payment prior to the start of each session.

If the client is using insurance, Present Hope Counseling, LLC will commence counseling services with the client on good-faith, trusting the information documented on the Health Insurance form. In the event, there is an error where the client's responsible payment is more than reported, the client is responsible to pay the outstanding balance or financial obligation prior to the next scheduled appointment. Should the client fail to make payment(s) towards their outstanding financial obligation/debt, counseling services will cease and not continue until such case as the bill is paid.

### Cancellations

Present Hope Counseling, LLC requires 24-hour notification for cancellations. You may contact Present Hope Counseling, LLC at (225) 2887-5714 or (225) 998-1223. Cancellations made without this notice will be charged the full fee of \$120. This fee must be paid prior to or at your next session. Please note, this charge is an out-of-pocket cost to you as we cannot bill your insurance company for missed or cancelled appointments.

By signing below, I agree to comply with this policy for services rendered at Present Hope Counseling.

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Client Signature

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Date

Dear Client,

We look forward to seeing you and we will gladly file your sessions with the counselor to your insurance company. However, we do not verify coverage or call to get the information concerning your coverage for you. You must call the phone number(s) on your health insurance card to get the following information PRIOR to your first session. Without ALL questions on this form answered by your Insurance Company, you will be responsible for the full session fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Insured's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Insured's ID number: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Insured's DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Plan Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer/School (Indicated on Insurance Card)? \_\_\_\_\_

**You must call the number on your insurance card and ASK THESE QUESTIONS: Ask for a reference number regarding your phone call. Ref. # \_\_\_\_\_**

Do I have outpatient mental health benefits? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is Katherine S. Arnold, LPC, LMFT (Present Hope Counseling, LLC) on my provider list?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If no, do I have any "out of network" benefits? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
(Write what those benefits are on the back of this form)

Do I have a deductible to meet prior to benefit coverage? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What is the amount of my deductible? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much of that deductible have I met? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do I have a co-payment for mental health benefits? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what is my co-payment amount per session? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How many sessions are allowed per calendar year? \_\_\_\_\_

Is prior authorization needed for counseling? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, authorization number? \_\_\_\_\_

**PATIENT'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE:** I authorize the release of any medical or other information necessary to process claims. I authorize payment of medical benefits to the counselor who provided the service.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_





**Present Hope Counseling, LLC**

**HIPAA Acknowledgement Form**

We are required to provide you with a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, which states how we may use and/or disclose your health information. Please sign this form to acknowledge receipt of the Notice. You may refuse to sign this acknowledgement, if you wish.

**I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Present Hope Counseling, LLC HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practice.**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

We have made every effort to obtain written acknowledgement of receipt of our Notice of Privacy from this patient but it could not be obtained because:

- ☐ The patient refused to sign.
- ☐ Due to an emergency situation it was not possible to obtain an acknowledgement.
- ☐ We weren't able to communicate with the patient.

Other (Please provide specific details) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counselor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Present Hope Counseling, LLC  
HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices**

**I. THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW TREATMENT INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:**

**A. MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND**

**B. HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION SHOULD YOU SO DESIRE.**

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

**II. IT IS OUR LEGAL DUTY TO SAFEGUARD YOUR “PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION” (“PHI”).**

A. By law we are required to insure that your PHI is kept private.

B. The PHI constitutes information created or noted by us that can be used to identify you. It contains data about your past, present, or future health (including mental health) or condition, the provision of health care (including counseling) services to you, or the payment for such health care.

C. We are required to provide you with this Notice about our privacy procedures. This Notice must explain when, why, and how we would use and/or disclose your PHI.

1. Use of PHI means when we share, apply, utilize, examine, or analyze information within our practice;
2. PHI is disclosed when we release, transfer, give, or otherwise reveal it to a third party outside our practice. With some exceptions, we may not use or disclose more of your PHI than is necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the use or disclosure is made; however, we are always legally required to follow the privacy practices described in this Notice.

**III. HOW WE WILL USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PHI.**

We will use and disclose your PHI for many different reasons. Some of the uses or disclosures will require your prior written authorization; others, however, will not. Below you will find the different categories of our uses and disclosures, with some examples.

- A. Uses and Disclosures Related to Treatment, Payment, or Health Care Operations that *Do Not* Require Your Prior Written Consent. We may use and disclose your PHI without your consent for the following reasons:**

**1. For treatment.** We can use your PHI *within* our practice (Present Hope Counseling, LLC) to provide you with mental health treatment, including discussing or sharing your PHI with Present Hope Counseling, LLC therapists, staff and supervisors, trainees and interns. Example: We may discuss your treatment with a supervisor or consult with another Present Hope Counseling, LLC therapist in order to facilitate your care.

**2. For health care operations.** We may disclose your PHI to facilitate the efficient and correct operation of our practice. Example: We may provide your PHI to our attorneys, accountants, consultants, and others to make sure that we are in compliance with applicable laws.

**3. To obtain payment for treatment.** We may use and disclose your PHI to bill and collect payment for the treatment and services we provided you. Example: We might send your PHI to your insurance company or health plan in order to get payment for the health care services that we have provided to you. We could also provide your PHI to business associates, such as billing companies or collection companies.

**4. Other disclosures.** Examples: Your consent isn't required if you need emergency treatment provided that we attempt to get your consent after treatment is rendered. In the event that we try to get your consent but you are unable to communicate with us (for example, if you are unconscious or in severe pain) but we think that you would consent to such treatment if you could, we may disclose your PHI.

**B. Certain Other Uses and Disclosures that *Do Not* Require Your Consent.** We may use and/or disclose your PHI without your consent or authorization for the following reasons:

**1. If disclosure is compelled or permitted by the fact that you are in such mental or emotional condition as to be dangerous to yourself or the person or property of others, and if we determine that disclosure is necessary to prevent the threatened danger.**

**2. If disclosure is compelled or permitted by the fact that you tell us of a serious/imminent threat of physical violence by you against a reasonably identifiable victim or victims.**

**3. If disclosure is mandated by the Louisiana Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting law.** For example, if we have a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

**4. If disclosure is mandated by the Louisiana Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting law.** For example, if we have a reasonable suspicion of elder abuse or dependent adult abuse.

**5. To avoid harm.** We may provide PHI to law enforcement personnel or persons able to prevent or mitigate a serious threat to the health or safety of a person or the public (e.g., adverse reaction to meds).

**6. When disclosure is required by federal, state, or local law; judicial, board, or administrative proceedings; or, law enforcement.** Example: We may make a disclosure to the appropriate officials when a law requires us to report information to judicial court officials, government

agencies, law enforcement personnel and/or in an administrative proceeding, of if disclosure is required by a lawful search warrant. (Mississippi law generally indicates that certain counseling information will not be disclosed in court proceedings, for example testimony by or written records of licensed Marriage and Family Therapists as they pertain to divorce-child-custody issues. However, in some instances courts may order the disclosure of such information.)

**7. For health oversight activities.** Example: We may be required to provide information to assist the government in the course of an investigation or inspection of a health care organization or provider.

**8. For specific government functions.** Examples: We may disclose PHI of military personnel and veterans under certain circumstances. Also, we may disclose PHI in the interests of national security, such as protecting the President of the United States or assisting with intelligence operations.

**9. For public health activities.** Example: In the event of your death, if a disclosure is permitted or compelled, we may need to give the county coroner information about you.

**10. Appointment reminders and health related benefits or services.** Examples: We may use PHI to provide appointment reminders. We may use PHI to give you information about alternative treatment options, or other health care services or benefits we offer.

**11. For Workers' Compensation purposes.** We may provide PHI in order to comply with Workers' Compensation laws.

**12. If an arbitrator or arbitration panel compels disclosure,** when arbitration is lawfully requested by either party, pursuant to subpoena duces tectum (e.g., a subpoena for mental health records) or any other provision authorizing disclosure in a proceeding before an arbitrator or arbitration panel.

**13. If disclosure is otherwise specifically required by law.** Example: If compelled by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to investigate or assess our compliance with HIPAA regulations, or compelled to comply with a lawful subpoena.

**C. Other Uses and Disclosures of your PHI Require Your Prior Written Authorization.**

In any other situation not described in Sections IIIA and IIIB above, we will request and must obtain your written authorization before using or disclosing any of your PHI.

Even if you have signed an authorization to disclose your PHI, you may later revoke that authorization, in writing, to stop any future uses and disclosures of your PHI by us.

#### **IV. WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE REGARDING YOUR PHI**

These are your rights with respect to your PHI:

**A. The Right to Request Limits on Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI.** You have the right to ask that we limit how we use and disclose your PHI. While we will consider your request, we are not legally bound to agree. If we do agree to your request, we will put those limits in writing and abide by them except in emergency situations. You do not have the right to limit the uses and disclosures that we are legally required or permitted to make.

**B. The Right to Amend Your PHI.** If you believe that there is some error in your PHI or that important information has been omitted, it is your right to request that we correct the existing information or add the missing information. Your request and the reason for the request must be made in writing. You will receive a response within 60 days of our receipt of your request. We may deny your request, in writing, if we find that: the PHI is (a) correct and complete, (b) forbidden to be disclosed, (c) not part of our records, or (d) written by someone other than us. Our denial must be in writing and must state the reasons for the denial. It must also explain your right to file a written statement objecting to the denial. If you do not file a written objection, you still have the right to ask that your request and our denial be attached to any future disclosures of your PHI. If we approve your request, we will make the change(s) to your PHI. (We are not obligated to delete any information, only add corrections or additions.) Additionally, we will tell you that the changes have been made, and we will advise all others who need to know about the change(s) to your PHI.

**C. The Right to Get a List of the Disclosures We Have Made.** You are entitled to a list of disclosures of your PHI that we have made. The list will not include uses or disclosures to which you have already consented, i.e., those for treatment, payment, or health care operations, sent directly to you, or to your family; neither will the list include disclosures made for national security purposes, to corrections or law enforcement personnel. We will respond to your request for an accounting of disclosures within 60 days of receiving your request. The list we give you will include disclosures made in the previous six years (if applicable) unless you indicate a shorter period. The list will include the date of the disclosure, to whom PHI was disclosed (including their address, if known), a description of the information disclosed, and the reason for the disclosure. We will provide the list to you at no cost, unless you make more than one request in the same year, in which case we will charge you a reasonable sum based on a set fee for each additional request.

**D. The Right to See and Get Copies of Your PHI.** In general, you have the right to see your PHI that is in our possession, or to get copies of it; however, you must request it in writing. If we do not have your PHI, but we know who does, we will advise you how you can get it. You will receive a response from us within 30 days of our receiving your written request. Under certain circumstances, we may decide that we must deny your request, but if we do, we will give you, in writing, the reasons for the denial. We will also explain your right to have our denial reviewed. If you ask for copies of your PHI, we will charge you not more than \$.50 per page. We may see fit to provide you with a summary or explanation of the PHI, but only if you agree to it, as well as to the cost, in advance.



**E. The Right to Choose How We Send Your PHI to You.** It is your right to ask that your PHI be sent to you at an alternate address (for example, sending information to your work address rather than your home address) or by an alternate method (for example, via email instead of by regular mail). We are obliged to agree to your request providing that we can give you the PHI, in the format you requested, without undue inconvenience. We may not require an explanation from you as to the basis of your request as a condition of providing communications on a confidential basis.

**F. The Right to Get This Notice by Email.** You have the right to get this notice by email. You have the right to request a paper copy of it, as well.

## **V. HOW TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR PRIVACY PRACTICES**

If, in your opinion, we may have violated your privacy rights, or if you object to a decision we made about access to your PHI, you are entitled to file a complaint. You may send a written complaint to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201. If you file a complaint about our privacy practices, we will take no retaliatory action against you. You may also send a written complaint to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals at Post Office Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629.

## **VI. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS NOTICE**

This notice went into effect on June 01, 2017.