

Alpha Hope Counseling, Inc.

Telemental Health Client Informed Consent

Thank you for your business! Part of the benefit you have access to with the services you purchased is the ability to receive counseling via Alpha Hope Counseling for an assessment and/or counseling services using Telemental Health technology.

Benefits of Telemental Health

Telemental Health can provide counseling services in the privacy of your home, office etc. By reducing the need to travel or take time off from work, Telemental Health can save time, money and reduce some of the stress associated with the trip.

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In the event that your counselor finds that Telemental Health is not an appropriate venue to meet your needs, they will refer you back to Alpha Hope Counseling, Inc. and/or into your medical benefit program.

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In the event that your Alpha Hope Telemental Health counselor refers you for mental health treatment beyond the scope of the type of counseling provided through the Telemental Health provided with this service, it will be your responsibility to determine whether or not those outside services are covered under your medical benefit plan and to pay any charges for services not covered by your medical plan.

Your Responsibilities as a Telemental Health Client

It is important that you let the counselor know if you are uncomfortable or are having difficulty seeing or hearing clearly. It is also important that should you have questions or concerns, please be sure to ask the counselor during your session. Alpha Hope requires everyone to read and sign an Informed Consent for Telemental Health Services and to identify an emergency contact who resides within a 25 mile radius of where you will be during the Telemental Health counseling session.

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You must agree to sign a release of information allowing contact (telephonic, verbal or email) with the identified emergency contact in case the Telemental Health counselor assess that there is a danger to your and/or someone else's safety.

Confidentiality

It is important that you understand the confidentiality of the communication between you and your Telemental Health counselor. Your video conference sessions with the Telemental Health counselor are encrypted and are compliant with HIPAA regulations. Your sessions are never recorded nor

photographed. Your records are maintained on a HIPAA compliant cloud platform.

At the same time, it is important to note that there is always a possibility that security protocols can fail, causing a breach of privacy of your confidential counseling record although the system is secure. It is almost impossible for such a breach to occur and allow for anyone to access your record however. The records of your counseling sessions can only be shared with a third party if and when you sign a form to authorize such a disclosure.

The Circumstances In Which Your Counselor May Be Required To Disclose Confidential Information To Appropriate Authorities Without Your Permission Are As Follows:

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Your counselor believes that you may harm yourself or someone else. Such a disclosure could include information indicating impairment sufficient to pose a life threatening situation at your work place.

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Your counselor believes that a child or a vulnerable adult is being abused/or neglected.

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A judge orders your counselor to comply with a court order or subpoena to provide information in connection with a legal proceeding.

Management of Counseling Records

If you wish to have a copy of your records from the Telemental Health counselor who provided you the services, you have the right to access your records from Alpha Hope Counseling. The Telemental Health counselor will ask you to sign a Release of Information document which you can initially do with an electronic signature, followed by a hard copy, which will be sent to you by fax and/or email. Once signed, return it by email and/or fax directly to the Telemental Health counselor.

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Please note: only when there is a signature on the Release of Information document can the Telemental Health counselor provide you with a copy of your record pursuant to their applicable legal and professional obligations.

Counseling for Children

Alpha Hope Counseling does not authorize individual assessment for children less than 13 years of age, although they may be included in sessions with your family as a unit. A parent or legal guardian must participate in all sessions when children less than 13 years of age are involved in counseling.

Children over 13 but under the age of majority, may be authorized for individual assessment and/or short-term counseling with the signed consent of a parent or legal guardian, who must participate in at least the initial assessment.

Counseling for Couples

Alpha Hope Telemental Health counseling can provide counseling for couples. In this case, both parties must attend at least the initial assessment session. Both parties will also be required to sign this document.

I hereby understand and agree:

1. I have had the alternatives to Telemental Health counseling explained to me and I freely chose this modality to use my counseling benefits.
2. I have read this document carefully, and understand the risk and benefits of telemental health/teleconferencing counseling.
3. I have had my questions regarding Telemental Health counseling answered in an informative and understanding way. I hereby consent to participate in Telemental Health counseling under the terms described herein.

Please print this document and sign:

Signature Date

Signature Date

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