

Notice of Privacy Practices

Acknowledgment of HIPAA Compliance HIPAA, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, was enacted by congress to protect your personal health information. It is a set of regulations that guides the way healthcare information is stored and shared. This includes how disclosures are made. It is intended to protect your private medical information.

The State of Texas and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Licensed Professional Counselors code of ethics and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists have long established standards which meet and, in many cases, exceed HIPAA standards. I, Jamie Durham, MEd, LPC, has and will continue to comply with all ethical and legal guidelines in the state of Texas that apply to mental health counseling, and with the newly enacted Federal HIPAA regulations.

Following are circumstances in which your personal health information may be used:

1. In accordance with HIPAA, your information may only be released with your consent.
2. All of your counseling sessions will become part of your clinical record. The communication is privileged. Anything you say to your therapist is confidential, with exceptions that include but are not limited to the occurrence of any of the following situations: 1) you authorize your counselor to disclose information to any third party, such as consultation with another professional; 2) the counselor is ordered by a court of law to disclose your information; 3) the counselor determines that you pose a danger to yourself or to others; 4) the counselor becomes aware of any abuse (physical or sexual) including neglect which involves a child, an aged adult, or a person who is disabled.
3. Your records will be maintained for a period of seven years (for children this means seven years beyond the age of 18). Client files are stored in dual-lock storage. All electronic data is password protected. 4. No "Quality Improvements" will be performed on your file by anyone other than your counselor. Any business agent, such as a receptionist, is bound to strict confidentiality and is punishable by law for any infringement upon confidentiality clauses. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with your counselor directly. Always ask questions! Once you have read and have an understanding of the above information and HIPAA, please sign and date below. If you have any further questions regarding HIPAA, you may visit www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa or call directly 1.800.627.7748. You may also email questions to: ocrprivacy@os.dhhs.gov