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## Covid 19 Informed Consent For In Office Counseling Sessions after a Global Pandemic

In-person counseling has advantages over distance counseling done by telephone or by face-time platforms, but in-person counseling also entails risks that are avoidable. By agreeing to work in-person you also agree that you understand the risks and accept those risks. The Covid19 virus often comes with no symptoms at all, but it can also be a very serious illness that may require medical treatment and in some cases, hospitalization. People may have the illness and not know they have it, but still transmit the illness to others – who may suffer a more serious episode of the illness. Our office will exercise as much care as is reasonably possible by the following steps, but your own safety and others' safety will require you to exercise similar care, as well:

1. All appointments at our office will be scheduled in way that will minimize your contact with others. When you come to our office please maintain six feet of space between yourself and others in the waiting room.
2. Between appointments, we will do our best to disinfect the office. No effort to disinfect an office space can be perfect. You can be safer and make others safer by not touching anything in the office that you do not need to touch.
3. In that same vein, your child should bring her or his own toys to use in the play therapy rather than to use the toys in our office.
4. To the greatest extent possible everyone should wear a mask – masks are for others' protection, not our own, and everyone should maintain social distance whenever in the office or the building.
5. If you, or if anyone in your family has any symptoms of the virus, you should notify us immediately, and you should cancel appointments, and not come to the office. There is a list of the symptoms offered by the CDC attached to this form. With these symptoms our office will still be able to provide counseling by some distance means. You will not need to terminate the effort.
6. If you or someone in our office tests positive for the virus, contact tracing may be required by a local, state, or federal authority. In that event our office would be compelled to disclose your name and contact information for the limited purpose of contact tracing.

We believe it should be your decision whether to participate in counseling in person or by means of distance devices. Our office will provide either form of counseling for you. By coming to our office, you agree, you understand, and you accept the risks entailed. You agree to cooperate with our efforts to protect you, to protect others, and to protect ourselves, by following safe practices including the steps listed above. You have had an opportunity to ask any questions and your questions have been answered.

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

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