

MONTGOMERY COUNSELING CENTER

APPLICATION FOR SERVICES

Informed Consent – Privacy

The adopted Montgomery Counseling Center Code of Ethics, as well as, State Laws require personal information discussed with any Montgomery Counseling Center (MCC) employee or contractor, or provided via Claim Questionnaires, be kept confidential. This means information about you may be shared among the MCC personnel only for professional purposes; it is not revealed to other persons, providers, agencies, or entities without your clear and specific permission. Protecting your privacy and confidence is of highest importance to us at MCC.

MCC understands Informed Consent is an ongoing part of the therapeutic relationship and counseling process; therefore, MCC personnel may revisit and document discussions related to informed consent during the therapeutic relationship and counseling process, as well.

PRIVACY EXCEPTIONS - MCC personnel are legally required to report the following situations:

1. Medical emergencies that require information only for handling the emergency.
2. Potential harm, danger, or threat of death to one's self or another person which require the police and/or intended victims to be notified.
3. Disclosure of abuse or neglect of a child, an aged person, or other vulnerable persons.
4. Records subpoenaed by the court.

By signing below, you are indicating the above information related to privacy exceptions and notices was reviewed with you by MCC personnel; that you have received the information in written terms, as well as, verbally; and, that you adequately understand and comprehend the information provided; and, agree to consent.

Participant Signature
Parent, Legal Guardian or Foster Parent

Date (Month-Date-Year)

Montgomery Counseling Center Representative

Date (Month-Date-Year)

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SERVICES TO BE RECEIVED – EXPECTED BENEFITS AND ATTENDANT RISKS

It is the responsibility of MCC to inform each participant (or, legal guardian) of the services to be received; as well as, the expected benefits and risks of those services.

Montgomery Counseling Center must provide participant's with a written explanation of risks and benefits associated with psychotherapy services and treatment provided by the agency. The provision of this documentation must be maintained in the participant record.

MCC understands our personnel have a responsibility to our participants to explain the nature of all services provided via MCC. MCC will make every effort to inform participants about the purposes, goals, techniques, procedures, limitations potential risks, and benefits of services; as well as, the therapist's qualifications, credentials, and relevant experience; continuation of services upon the incapacitation or death of a therapist; and, other pertinent types of information. Therapists will also take appropriate steps to provide client's detailed information related to diagnosis; condition, uses of tests or reports, fees, and billing arrangements.

You have a right to confidentiality – and, MCC personnel make efforts to protect your privacy; however, you must also understand our therapists work in an interdisciplinary team; and, information about you and your services may be shared with supervisors or contracted consultants, including, but not limited to, psychiatrist and physician. The purpose of this information sharing involves training, consultation, recommendations and professional and agency oversight requirements.

You also have the right to be involved in the development and implementation of your individualized treatment plan, as well as, to choose others to be involved in the development of the individualized treatment plan.

Montgomery Counseling Center defines the risks and benefits associated with our core service, psychotherapy, as such:

Risks:

Often psychotherapy requires recalling and talking about unpleasant aspects of your history or your present situation, which can bring to the surface extremely uncomfortable feelings such as sadness, anger, or shame. Although it may be necessary to talk, process, or relive these painful or embarrassing subjects, the role of the therapist is to be nonjudgmental and understanding and assist the participant during this process.

An additional risk referred to in Mental Health Clinics is referred to as "life-change"; our mental and emotional health affects how we act, react, and how other people (especially people who are close to you) act and react to us. Therefore, as we grow or change perspectives, we can upset the delicate balances in relationships. Our friends and family are used to us behaving in certain ways. Changing those patterns, motives, behaviors, etc. promotes risk of changing various relationships.

Benefits:

A number of benefits are available from participating in psychotherapy. Often it is helpful just to know that someone else understands the issues you are dealing with. Therapy can provide a fresh perspective on a difficult problem or

situation; or, may be helpful in pointing you in the direction of a solution. The benefits you obtain from therapy depend on how well you use the process and put into practice what you learn. The benefits available through therapy may include:

- Attaining a better understanding of yourself and your personal goals and values, developing skills for improving your relationships
- Overcoming specific problems such as depression or binge eating
- Finding resolution to the issues or concerns that led you to seek therapy

There are no guarantees about what outcomes therapeutic services will have for each individual, couple, group, or family. Some people find that participating in psychotherapy results in changes that were not expected or intended at the outset.

By signing below, you are indicating the above information related to benefits and risks associated with services provided by MCC was reviewed with you by MCC personnel; that you have received the information in written terms, as well as, verbally; and, that you adequately understand and comprehend the information provided; and, agree to consent.

Participant Signature
Parent, Legal Guardian or Foster Parent

Date (Month-Date-Year)

Montgomery Counseling Center Representative

Date (Month-Date-Year)