

Stephen L. McCown, LPC-S
800 Hwy 290 West, D-500
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
512.786.4844

CONSENT FOR TELEHEALTH

Please carefully read the following information and sign at the bottom of this document if in agreement.

In order to participate in telehealth for psychotherapy:

- You will need access to certain technological services and tools to engage in telehealth-based services with me, as your provider;
- Telehealth has both benefits and risks, which together you and I will be monitoring as we proceed with our work together;
- It is possible that receiving services by telehealth will turn out to be inappropriate for you, and that you and I may have to cease our work by telehealth;
- You can stop work by telehealth at any time;
- You will need to participate in creating an appropriate space for your telehealth sessions;
- You will need to participate in making a plan for managing technology failures, mental health crises, and medical emergencies;
- I follow security best practices and legal standards in order to protect your health care information, but you will also need to participate in maintaining your own security and privacy.

What is Telehealth?

“Telehealth” means, in short, “provision of mental health services with the provider and recipient of services being in separate locations, and the services being delivered over electronic media.” Therefore, services delivered via telehealth rely on a number of electronic, often Internet-based, technology tools. These tools can include video conferencing software, email, text messaging, virtual environments, specialized mobile health (“mHealth”) apps, and others.

I typically provide telehealth services using Doxy.me via a computer or cell phone, or by standard voice phone service, if video service is not achievable.

You will need access to Internet service and/or phone service to use the above-listed tools in order to engage in telehealth work with me.

If you have any questions or concerns about the above tools, please address them directly with me so we can discuss their risks, benefits, and specific application to your treatment.

Benefits and Risks of Telehealth

Receiving services through telehealth allows you to:

- Receive counseling services at times or in places where the service may not otherwise be available;
- Receive counseling services in a fashion that may be more convenient and less prone to delays than in-person meetings; and
- Receive counseling services when you are unable to travel to my office.

The unique characteristics of telehealth media may also help some people make improved progress on health goals that may not have been otherwise achievable without telehealth.

Receiving services via telehealth has the following risks:

- Telehealth services can be impacted by technical failures, may introduce risks to your privacy, and may reduce my ability to directly intervene in crises or emergencies.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of examples:

- Internet connections and cloud services could cease working or become too unstable to use;
- Cloud-based service personnel, IT assistants, and malicious actors (“hackers”) may have the ability to access your private information that is transmitted or stored in the process of telehealth-based service delivery;
- Computer or smartphone hardware can have sudden failures or run out of power, or local power services can go out.
- Interruptions may disrupt services at important moments, and I may be unable to reach you quickly or using the most effective tools;
- I may also be unable to help you in-person.

There may be additional benefits and risks to telehealth services that arise from the lack of in-person contact or presence, the distance between you and me at the time of our counseling session, and the technological tools used to deliver services. I will assess these potential benefits and risks, sometimes in collaboration with you, as our relationship progresses.

Assessing Telehealth’s Fit for You

Although it is well validated by research, service delivery via telehealth is not a good fit for every person. I will continuously assess if working via telehealth is appropriate for your case. If it is not appropriate, we will work in person, if possible, and if not, I will help you find in-person providers with whom to continue services. Please talk to me if you find the telehealth media so difficult to use that it distracts from the services being provided, if the medium causes trouble focusing on your services, or if there are any other reasons why the telehealth medium seems to be causing problems in receiving services.

Raising your questions or concerns will not, by itself, result in termination of services. Bringing your concerns to me is often a part of the process. You also have a right to stop receiving services by telehealth at any time.

Your Telehealth Environment

You will be responsible for creating a safe and confidential space during sessions. You should use a space that is free of other people. It should also be difficult or impossible for people outside the space to see or hear your interactions with me during the session.

Communication Between Sessions and Crisis Services

The best way to contact me between sessions is text or call me at 512-786-4844. I will respond to your messages within one business day.

If you are in crisis or need immediate assistance, call 911 or:

**BLANCO & HAYS COUNTY
24-Hour Mobile Crisis Outreach Team
877-466-0660**

**TRAVIS COUNTY
24-Hour Mobile Crisis Outreach Team
512-472-HELP (472-4357)**

**National Suicide Prevention Line
800-273-8255**

Please note that all textual messages you exchange with me, e.g. emails and text messages, may become a part of your health record.

Recordings

Please do not record video or audio sessions without my consent. Making recordings can quickly and easily compromise your privacy, and should be done so only with great care. I will not record video or audio sessions.

I have read and understand the above language, and agree to the same:

Printed Client Name

Client or Parent/Guardian Signature

Date