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PSY 29291

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This document is intended to outline my office policies related to use of Social Media and to help you know how you can expect me to respond to various interactions that may occur between us on the Internet. As new technology develop there may be times when I need to update this policy. If I do so, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy.

If you have any questions about anything within this document, I encourage you to bring them up when we meet.

Friending and Following: I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc). I do this out of concern that such behavior can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship.

I also do not follow or subscribe to the blogs or other social media pages of my current or past clients. I do this out of concern that the viewing of your online activities without your consent and/or without an explicit purpose could potentially have a negative influence on our working relationship. If there are things from your online life that you wish to share with me, please bring them into our sessions where we can view and explore them together, during the therapy hour.

Use of Search Engines: I do not, in the course of regular practice, search for clients on Google, other search engines, or social media platforms. That said, it is possible that during times of crisis, where I am concerned about your safety, I may make an exception. These are unusual situations and if I ever resort to this action I will discuss it with you during our next session.

Business Review Sites: You may find my practice on various sites that list local business, such as Yelp, Healthgrades, Yahoo Local, and other similar pages. Some of these sites provide space for users to rate their providers and/or add reviews. Please note that if you should find my listing on any of these sites my listing is NOT a request for a testimonial, rating, or endorsement from you as my client. It is a violation of the American Psychological Association's Ethics Code for psychologists to solicit testimonials from current therapy clients.

If you choose to write a review on that site (whether positive or negative) I will not and cannot respond due to confidentiality. It is also important to note that I do not check these sites regularly, so I hope that you will bring your feelings and reactions to our work into session so that we can discuss your thoughts directly. This is an important

part of therapy, both positive and negative feelings about the work we do together can have important implications and I welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns you have, including a desire to end our work together.

If you do decide to leave a review on one of these sites, or comment on our work together online in any fashion, I urge you to keep in mind that you are sharing your personal information. Depending on your situation, you may want to create a pseudonym in order to protect your own privacy.

Additionally, if you feel I have done something harmful or unethical you can always contact the California Board of Psychology, which oversees licensing.

Board of Psychology

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