

Informed Consent for Virtual Counseling

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"Unregulated virtual care technologies increase the risk that your personal health information may be intercepted or disclosed to third parties. These tools are being used as an extraordinary measure during the COVID-19 pandemic when regulated technology is not readily available, and the necessity to keep people from congregating or attending health facilities where they may be exposed to the COVID-19 virus is thought to outweigh the risk of personal privacy breaches on both a personal and population health basis."

I am doing my best to make sure that any information you give to me during virtual counselling is private and secure, but no video or audio tools are ever completely secure. There is an increased security risk that your health information may be intercepted or disclosed to third parties when using video or audio communications tools. To help me keep your information safe and secure, you can:

- Understand that video, emails, calls, or texts you may receive are not secure in the same way as a private appointment in my office.
- Use a private computer/device (i.e., not an employer's or third party's computer/device), secure accounts and a secure internet connection. For example, using a personal and encrypted email account is more secure than an unencrypted email account, and your access to the Internet on your home network will generally be more secure than an open guest Wi-Fi connection.

By providing your information, you agree to let me collect, use, or disclose your personal health information through video or audio communications (while following applicable privacy laws – **I DO NOT** record any conversations or sharing of information) in order to provide you with care. In particular, the following means of electronic communication may be used (**circle all that apply**): email, videoconferencing (including Skype, Facetime, etc.), text messaging (including instant messaging), website/portal, other (please specify)."

Name:

Date

Signature (electronic or hand)