

## Patient-Healthcare Provider Electronic Communication Agreement

Electronic communications, including, but not limited to, emails, texts, internet-based video conferencing through such applications as Skype and "FaceTime" through iPhones and iPads, for example (hereinafter "Electronic Communications") provide an opportunity to communicate with your healthcare provider relative to issues that are non-urgent, non-urgent or non-critical. Electronic Communications are not a replacement for the interpersonal contact that is the very basis of the doctor-patient relationship. The following is intended to assist you with your determination of whether you wish to supplement your healthcare experience by electronically communicating with your therapist, **Shalini Dayal, MFT 43574** at Bay Area Marriage, Family & Child Counseling, Inc.

### **General Considerations**

- Your Healthcare Provider will treat Electronic Communications with the same degree of privacy and confidentiality as written medical records. Your Healthcare Provider has taken reasonable steps with internal information technology systems to protect the security and privacy of your personal identifying and health information in accordance with the security guidelines required by the Health Information Protection and Accountability Act of 1992, as amended (HIPAA.)
- Standard email services, including, but not limited to, Yahoo mail, Hotmail, and Gmail, are not secure. This means that the email messages are not encrypted and can be intercepted and read by unauthorized individuals.
- Electronic communication via internet based video conference providers, including, Skype, Zoom, Google Hangouts, claim to have safeguards in place to protect your personal information from unauthorized disclosure. However, there is the possibility that viruses, Trojans or other malicious software may obtain your private information on your computer system and release and/or use your information without your knowledge. There may be other risks associated with internet communication which are unknown at this time.
- Transmitting email or texts that contains protected health information through a system that is not encrypted may not meet the security guidelines as required by the HIPAA.

I have read and understood the above description of the risks and responsibilities associated with Electronic Communications with Shalini Dayal, MFT. I acknowledge that commonly used Electronic Communications are not secure and fall outside of the security requirements set forth by HIPAA.

I understand that I can withdraw this consent authorizing Shalini Dayal, MFT to communicate with me via Electronic Communications at any time by written notification to Shalini Dayal, MFT.

I release and hold harmless Shalini Dayal, MFT from any and all expenses, claims, actions, liabilities, attorney fees, damages, losses, of any kind that I may have resulting from Electronic Communications between Shalini Dayal, MFT and me based on this authorization given to my Healthcare Provider to communicate with me via Electronic Communications.

Having been informed of the risks associated with Electronic Communications, I still desire to communicate with Healthcare Provider via electronic communications. In consideration for my desire to use Electronic Communications as an adjunct to in-person office visits with Shalini Dayal, MFT, I hereby authorize Shalini Dayal, MFT to engage in Electronic Communication with me.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_