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**Spartanburg Methodist College**

**Counseling Services**

**Consent for Telehealth Services**

In order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) we will be offering **Telehealth services** for students in South Carolina. Please read this carefully.

**What is Telehealth Services?**

Telehealth means the remote delivering of counseling via technology-assisted media. The technology includes but is not limited to: telephone, video, internet, smartphone, tablet, PC desktop system or other electronic means.

**Privacy**

Your therapist will take every precaution to insure a technologically secure and environmentally private counseling session by conducting the session from a secure space in order to maintain confidentiality.

Please be aware that, as a client, you are responsible for finding a private and quiet location where your session may be conducted uninterrupted. You have responsibility for maintaining the confidentiality of your WIFI connectivity link and the security of your electronic device (tablet, phone, or computer).

There will be no recording of online sessions, and all information disclosed within those sessions, and the written documentation of those sessions, are protected by the standards of clinical confidentiality as disclosed in our general consent form.

**In Case of Technology Failure**

If your scheduled appointment is prevented or disrupted due to technical complications, please email your therapist at their SMC account.

**Permission for telehealth services:**

*I authorize Spartanburg Methodist College Counseling Services to provide telehealth counseling services, or when circumstances require action in my treatment, to be processed according to standard practice.*

Your written or electronic signature on this document represents consent for **telehealth services**. You may use an electronic signature or simply type your name on the signature line to demonstrate your agreement.

**Student Name and Date: X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**How to Use *Doxy.me* for Telehealth**

Telehealth sessions will be offered over *Doxy.me*, which works much like *Skype* or *Zoom*. *Doxy.me* is a telemedicine video conferencing website that was created for doctors and therapists to privately and confidentially video chat with their patients. It is compliant with both HIPAA and the HITECH Act (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act).

**Note:** *Doxy.me* cannot be used to contact the therapist between scheduled sessions or for emergencies. It will not be monitored except during your appointment time. Use the office number 864-587-4356 or email [lowejenkinsa@smcsc.edu](mailto:lowejenkinsa@smcsc.edu) to contact us during business hours (9-12 and 1-4 Monday-Thursday and 9-12 Friday).

If you are in a crisis, we can assist you in identifying available resources in your place of residence. If you are currently taking psychotropic medication or feel that you need psychotropic medication, please contact your prescribing physician or primary care doctor for medication.

In order to start therapy:

1. Contact your therapist via email or phone to schedule an appt.
2. Sign this document (consent to treat) and return to therapist via email.
3. To access counseling services platform, at your scheduled appointment time, please click the link provided below.
4. <https://doxy.me/smccounseling>
5. Clicking on this link at the beginning of your scheduled session time will take the you directly to your therapist’s private, confidential Doxy.me account.
6. Use Chrome or Firefox web browser
7. You will need to give your browser permission to access your microphone and camera for the call.
8. You will be prompted by Doxy.me to type in your name (please type your full name) so your therapist can see that you have checked into their “waiting room.”
9. After you have done this, your therapist can begin the session.

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