

TIP Clinic

Electronic Communication Policy

In order to maintain clarity regarding our use of electronic modes of communication during your treatment, I have prepared the following policy. This is because the use of various types of electronic communications is common in our society, and many individuals believe this is the preferred method of communication with others, whether their relationships are social or professional. Many of these common modes of communication, however, put your privacy at risk and can be inconsistent with the law and with the standards of my profession. Consequently, this policy has been prepared to assure the security and confidentiality of your treatment and to assure that it is consistent with the ethical standards of my profession and with the law.

If you have any questions about this policy, please discuss them with me.

Email Communications and Text Messaging

I use email and text communications only with your permission and only for administrative purposes (appointments, billing matters, and other administrative issues). If you need to discuss a clinical matter with me, it is best to discuss it during your therapy session.

****Please do not email or text me about clinical matters because email is not a secure or reliable mode of transmitting important private information.**

Social Media

I do not communicate with, or contact, any of my clients through social media platforms like Twitter, Link'd In, and Facebook. In addition, if I discover that I have accidentally established an online relationship with you, I will cancel that relationship. This is because these types of casual social contacts can create significant privacy risks for you.

In my professional capacity, I may participate on social networks. If you have an online presence, there is a possibility that you may encounter me. I don't want to discourage that but I do want to urge you to inform me if that occurs, so that we may discuss its potential impact on our professional relationship. Please do not try to contact me via social media as I do not respond to those contacts.

Websites

I have a website that you are encouraged to access. I use it for professional reasons to provide information to others about my practice. If you have questions about it, we should discuss this during your therapy sessions.

Web Searches

I will not use web searches to gather information about you without your permission. I believe that this violates your privacy rights; however, I understand that you might choose to gather information about me in this way. In this day and age there is an abundance of information available about individuals via the internet, much of which may not be known to that person and some of which may be inaccurate. If you encounter any information about me through web searches, or in any other fashion for that matter, I want to encourage you to discuss this with me so that we can examine any potential impact on your treatment.

Recently it has become fashionable for clients to review their health care provider on various websites. Although reviews can be very helpful to inform other prospective clients about a psychotherapy practice, there are important ethical principles that compel me to discourage you from providing my practice that kind of assistance. If you'd like to discuss this, I'd be happy to do that during your session. If you encounter such reviews of me, I urge you to share it with me so that we can discuss it and its potential impact on your therapy.