

KENNETH GATES AND ASSOCIATES

Informed Consent Addendum For Phone or Video Chat Sessions

Here are some key issues regarding phone or video chat psychotherapy sessions. We do not do psychotherapy over text or email. When you sign this document, it will represent an agreement between you and your therapist to engage in therapy sessions using a video format. If you have any questions, please let your therapist know.

1. Confidentiality issues
 - a. If you have Siri, Google Now, Alexa or any other digital assistant app on your phone, be sure they are off before your session and unplug any smart speakers in the room before your session. If they are on, they are always listening, violating your confidentiality.
 - b. No method of technological communication can be guaranteed to be completely confidential. With any technology, there is always a small risk of hacking and therefore loss of confidentiality. However, be assured that we have taken all efforts to keep our technology secure and to utilize HIPPA compliant applications.
 - c. We will not record your session and we ask that you agree not to either.
 - d. You agree to maintain confidentiality on your end of the session by using secure wifi (not public) and having updated virus protection on any computer used
 - e. At the time of your phone or video session, please be in a quiet place where you will not be distracted or interrupted, and your session will not be overheard.
 - f. If you live with others, find a quiet room and close the door. Consider using another device to play white/fan noise just inside the door for increased privacy.
2. Potential risks and costs to phone or video chat sessions
 - a. There may be less nonverbal communication than for an in-person session.
 - b. With any technology, there is always the risk of being inadvertently disconnected. If our call or chat session is disrupted at any time, we will call you back. If the calling technology appears to be dysfunctional, we can email each other about another time to call.
 - c. As with any psychotherapy session, you are ultimately responsible for payment. We suggest that you check with your health insurance policy to see whether phone or video chat sessions are covered. Please discuss this with your therapist further as needed.
3. We can have a phone or video chat session when we are both in Illinois or when either of us is in Georgia, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Nebraska or Missouri. Generally state laws require that the therapist be licensed in both states: the state where the therapist is, and the state where the client is, but legislative efforts are underway to allow practice between states, and the above states have passed this legislation.
4. If you are having an urgent concern, reach out to your therapist by email or phone. Do not use the video chat platform.

I understand the above information and I consent to using phone or video chat for psychotherapy. I understand that I can withdraw my consent to phone or video chat sessions at any time.

Signature

Printed Name

____ / ____ / ____
Date