

## **INFORMED CONSENT for IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Arizona Behavioral Health Specialists, LLC**

This document contains important information about our decision (*yours and mine*) to have in-person services in light of the COVID-19 health crisis. Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between us.

### **DECISION to MEET FACE-to-FACE**

We have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, I may require that we meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will talk about it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if I believe it is necessary, I may determine that we have teletherapy for everyone's well-being.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, I will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so that is an issue we also may need to discuss.

### **Risks of Opting for In-Person Services**

You understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing services.

### **Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure**

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, me, and our families, [my other staff] and other patients) safe from exposure, sickness, and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting/returning to telehealth arrangement. Initial each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will take your temperature before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms of the coronavirus, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. If you wish to cancel for this reason, I won't charge you our normal cancellation fee. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will wait in your car or outside [or in a designated safer waiting area] until no earlier than 5 minutes before our appointment time. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter this building. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions, we have set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy room. For example, you won't move chairs. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the office (I [and my staff] will too). \_\_\_\_\_
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands with me [or my staff]). \_\_\_\_\_

- You will try not to touch your hand or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands.

Patient Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature/Patient/Parent/Guardian

Date

### **Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic**

My Office is taking the following precautions to protect our patients and help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

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- \* Office seating in the waiting room and in therapy/testing rooms has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- \* My staff and I wear masks.
- \* My staff maintains social distancing.
- \* Restrooms and soap dispensers are maintained and everyone is encouraged to wash their hands.
- \* Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is available in the therapy/testing rooms, the waiting room and at the reception counter.
- \* We schedule appointments at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting room.
- \* We ask all patients to wait in their cars or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before their appointment times.
- \* Credit cards pads, pens and other areas that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized after each use.
- \* Physical contact is not permitted.
- \* Tissue and trash bins are easily accessed. Trash is disposed of on a daily basis.
- \* Common areas are thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.

