



Youth, Couple & Family Counselling

Jathina Blais, MSW, RSW

Family Therapy

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4019 Carling Ave, Suite 202, Ottawa, ON, K2K 2A3

INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to resume in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public 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 return to telehealth 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.

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 service.

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, and other clients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting / returning to a 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/38 Celcius 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 until you have been invited to enter the building. ____
- You will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building. ____
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the office (Family-Therapy therapists will too). ____
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet (two meters) and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with me ____

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- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands. ____
- Anyone who accompanies you to your appointment must wait outside of the building and is not permitted to enter at any time. ____
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID. ____
- If you have a job that exposes you to other people who are infected, you will immediately let me know. ____
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let me know. ____
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let me know and we will then [begin] resume treatment via telehealth. ____

I may change the above precautions if additional local, provincial, or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will talk about any necessary changes.

My Commitment to Minimize Exposure

My practice has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office. In my office, I have a HEPA filter, sanitizer, and wear a mask throughout the session; I regularly clean frequently touched surfaces. The client couch and my chair are spread as far as possible. Please let me know if you have questions about these efforts.

If You or I Are Sick

You understand that I am committed to keeping you, me, and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and I believe that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, I will have to require you to leave the office immediately. We can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate.

If I or my colleagues test positive for the coronavirus, I will notify you so that you can take appropriate precautions.

Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, I may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If I have to report this, I will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that I may do so without an additional signed release.

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Informed Consent

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreement that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

Client

Date

Jathina Blais MSW, RSW

Date

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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.

- Office seating in the waiting room is not available; please wait in your vehicle or outside the building and call or text me at 343-882-6650 when you arrive.
- Family-Therapy therapists wear masks.
- Family-Therapy therapists maintains safe distancing.
- Restroom 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 rooms and will be offered when you arrive and depart.
- Payment using online invoicing or email money transfer are the only accepted methods.
- Physical contact is not permitted.
- Tissues 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. Each office is disinfected between clients.

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