

Laura Venable, MA LMFT #37822
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

INFORMED CONSENT

Welcome and please read the following information regarding my policies and procedures. Your understanding of this part of our professional relationship is important. I will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Appointments: Appointments are 50 minutes long, however in some instances, there is a desire for a longer session. This can be arranged ahead of time and is especially desirable when multiple family members are seen. The fee for a 50 minute session is \$95 for an individual and \$105 for couples or families. Fees are payable at each session with either check or cash. Checks are made payable to: Laura Venable. I make every effort to be punctual and honor your appointment time. If you arrive late, you will receive the remainder of your time at the full fee. This is necessary so that I can see the following client(s) at their scheduled time. If you need to rearrange an appointment, please call 24 hours ahead of time. Exceptions would be illness or other emergencies arising that same day. I do understand how "life" happens to all of us sometimes.

Confidentiality: I place a high value on the confidentiality of the information that my clients share with me. I do take notes and some of the information you share with me will be in your files. I am the only one who has access to those files and they are stored in a locked file cabinet. Should you desire release of some of information to another professional, for example your Doctor or another Therapist, both your verbal consent and written authorization would be acquired first. You can revoke this authorization in written form at any time.

Exceptions to Confidentiality: There are several important instances when confidential information may be released to others:

- First, if you have been referred to my office by the Court ("court ordered"), you can assume that the Court wishes to receive some type of report or evaluation. In such instances, you have the right to tell me only what you want me to know.
- Second, if you are involved in litigation of any kind and inform the court that you receive services from me (making your mental health an issue before the court), you may be waiving your right to keep your records confidential. You may wish to consult your Attorney regarding such matters before you disclose that you receive treatment.
- Third, if you threaten to harm either yourself or someone else, and I believe your threat is serious, I am obligated under law to take whatever actions seem necessary to protect people from harm. This may involve divulging confidential information to others and would only be done under unusual circumstances where someone's life appeared to be in danger.
- Fourth, if I have reason to believe that you are abusing or neglecting your children, an elderly person or a person dependent on your care, I am mandated by law to report this to the appropriate agency. The law in California considers Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists to be "mandated reporters" for such matters.

In addition, when a client's family member(s) communicates to me that my client has mentioned intent to harm him/herself or another, I am required by law to take whatever actions are necessary to protect people from harm. Every effort is made on my part to safeguard your confidential information. If you have any questions about the above exceptions to confidentiality, please discuss them with me.

Emergencies: I have voice mail (916-492-7900) and do not carry a beeper. Therefore, I am not available for emergencies of an immediate nature. In choosing to work with me, it is important that you fully understand this. If you do not have family or friends available in an emergency, you can call Suicide Prevention at (916) 368-3111 or 773-3111 or Sutter Center for Psychiatry at (916) 386-3077.

I have read the above statements and agree to these policies and procedures.

Signature: _____ Date: _____