

TELE-SUPPORT INFORMED CONSENT

About Me: I, Christina Duffy, am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (No. 86699, CA) and counselor who is committed to providing innovative, culturally competent, strength-based, heart-centered services.

Fees & Cancellation Policy: Fees are to be paid in advance of the start time of each session via my website PayPal link. I have a 24-HR cancellation policy: You are responsible for payment of the agreed upon session fee for any missed or rescheduled sessions for which you failed to give me at least 24 hours notice.

Phone Contacts: Telephone communications between sessions are welcome *when they are urgent or in regards to scheduling*. If events arise in between your sessions that are especially upsetting to you and you wish to speak with me, I may discuss the situation briefly or set up a session to discuss it more in depth.

Emergency Contact: I have a confidential voicemail system (916-827-0071) that allows my clients to leave a message at any time. I will make every effort to return calls within 24 hours, but cannot guarantee calls will be returned immediately. I am unable to provide 24-hour crisis service. In the event that you are feeling unsafe or require immediate medical or psychiatric assistance, you should call 911, or go to the nearest emergency room.

Confidentiality: I follow all state and federal guidelines regarding confidentiality and I comply with HIPAA standards pertaining to Protected Health Information when applicable.

Limits to Confidentiality: All information shared during tele-support sessions remains strictly confidential, with the following exceptions: (1) I am required to report instances of actual or suspected child, elder, or dependent abuse; (2) when I have determined that a client presents a serious danger of physical violence to another person or (3) when a client is dangerous to him or herself; (4) if the material is court ordered; (5) if a pregnant woman is using restricted substances; or (6) if my client was neglected or abused by a health care provider. In addition, (7) a federal law known as The Patriot Act of 2001 requires therapists (and others) in certain circumstances to provide FBI agents with requested items and prohibits the therapist from disclosing to the client that the FBI sought or obtained the items.

Couples: I have a "no secrets policy" for couples and family therapy. What that means is I reserve the right to disclose confidential information given to me, by a client *individually*, in the couple's session *only* if I feel it is in the best interest of the relationship or family.

About the Process: It is my intention to provide professional services that will assist you in reaching your goals. Due to the varying nature and severity of problems and the individuality of each client, I am unable to predict the length of your tele-support or guarantee a specific outcome or result. Please understand that there are potential risks and benefits associated with tele-support and that despite both your efforts and my efforts, your condition or situation may not improve or it may become worse.

Litigation and Contact with Third Parties: I do not get involved with clients' litigation or other dealings with third parties and I do not interact with my client's attorneys. Therefore, I cannot be involved with any legal, medical, or disability issue, including providing written documentation.

Agreement: Your signature indicates that you have read this Tele-Support Informed Consent carefully, had explained to you where necessary, and that you fully understand, agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this agreement, and consent to participate in telephonic support with myself, Christina Duffy.

Moreover, you agree to hold me free and harmless from any claims, demands, or suits for damages from any injury or complications whatsoever, save negligence, that may result from such tele-support.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)