

Osika & Scarano Psychological Services, P.C.

4-1/2 Woodruff Street
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

5 Pine Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801

125 Broad Street
One Broad Street Plaza
Glens Falls, NY 12801

432 Franklin Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

Telephone (518) 745-0079

Fax (518) 745-4291

www.OSPsychServices.com

Informed Consent for In-Person Services During COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Our office is strongly encouraging telehealth visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. If, for some reason you need a face-to-face session, you and your provider will have a discussion as to why.

We are requiring all patients to read, initial and sign this document, regardless of whether we have planned a face-to-face session. This document contains important information about how to safely have a face-to-face session in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let your provider know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between you and our practice.

Refusal to Meet Face-to-Face

If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, your provider may refuse your request for a face-to-face session. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, you will talk to your provider about it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if your provider believes it is necessary, they may determine that you return to telehealth for everyone's well-being. If you insist on face-to-face sessions, you may request a change in provider if your provider continues to refuse. 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 (e.g., you, me, our families, my staff, and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our termination of the option for face-to-face sessions.

Initial each item below to indicate that you understand.

I agree to these actions if I ever have a face-to-face session:

- You will only have 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, we won't charge you our normal cancellation fee. Ask your provider if you'd like to use our point and shoot thermometer at the office.
- You will wait in your car or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before our appointment time.
- You will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building.
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and service rooms. For example, you won't move chairs or sit where seating is prohibited.
- 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 any member of our staff.
- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands.
- If you are bringing your child, you will make sure that your child follows all of these sanitation and distancing protocols.
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID-19.

- If you have a job that exposes you to other people who are infected, you will immediately let me and my staff know.
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let me and my staff know.
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let us know and we will then begin or resume treatment via telehealth.

We may change the above precautions if additional local, state 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 and we have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let me know if you have questions about these efforts.

If You or I Are Sick

You understand that we are committed to keeping you, me, my staff, and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and we believe you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, we will have to require you to leave the office immediately. Our providers reserve the right to take your temperature. If you are asked to leave the office, we can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate. If your provider tests positive for the coronavirus, we 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, we may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If we have to report this, we 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 we may do so without an additional signed release.

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 indicates that you agree to these terms and conditions.

Patient/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name:

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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 and in therapy/testing rooms has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- My staff and I wear masks.
- My staff 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/testing rooms, the waiting room and at the reception counter.
- We schedule very few face-to-face appointments in order 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 card pads, pens and other areas that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized after each use.
- Physical contact is not permitted.
- Tissues and trash bins are easily accessed. Trash is disposed of on a frequent basis.
- Common areas are thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.
- Providers have to attest daily that they are symptom free, do not have a temperature, have not traveled outside of the state within the past 2 weeks, and have had no known exposure to COVID-19.