



WHITE OAK Counseling and Recovery

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PF 1000 NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

As required by the Privacy Regulations Created as a Result of the Health Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA)

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU (AS A CLIENT IN THIS PRACTICE) MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

I. Our Commitment to Your Privacy

Our practice is committed to maintaining the privacy of your protected health information (PHI). In conducting our business, we will create records regarding you and the treatment and services we provide for you. We are required by law to maintain the confidentiality of health information that identifies you. We are also required by law to provide you with this notice of our legal duties and the privacy practices we maintain in our practice concerning your PHI. By federal and state law, we must follow the terms of the notice that we have in effect at the time.

II. Uses and Disclosures

Treatment. Your PHI may be used by staff members or disclosed to other health care professionals for the purpose of evaluating your health, diagnosing clinical conditions, and providing treatment. An example of treatment would be when we consult with another health care provider, such as your family physician or another professional counselor.

Payment. Your PHI may be used to seek payment from your health plan, from other sources of coverage such as an automobile insurer, or from credit card companies that you may use to pay for services. For example, your health plan may request and receive information on dates of service, the services provided, and the clinical condition being treated.

Health care operations. Your PHI may be used as necessary to support the day-to-day activities and management of White Oak Counseling and Recovery. For example, information on the services you received may be used to support budgeting and financial reporting, and activities to evaluate and promote quality.

Law enforcement. Your PHI may be disclosed to federal, state or local law enforcement agencies, without your permission, to support government audits and inspections, to facilitate law-enforcement investigations, and to comply with government mandated reporting.

Public health reporting. Your PHI may be disclosed to public health agencies as required by law. For example, we are required to report certain communicable diseases to the state's public health department.

Appointments. Your PHI will be used by White Oak Counseling and Recovery to contact you to schedule an appointment, remind you of an appointment, reschedule an appointment, or notify you of other pertinent information. The contact may be made by phone, U.S. mail, email, or texting.

Informative Information. Your PHI may be used to send you information on the treatment and management of your psychological/medical condition that you may find to be of interest. We may also send you information describing psychological/health-related goods and service that we believe may interest you.

**If there is ever a breach of your healthcare information and it comes to our attention, we will inform you as soon as possible.

III. Personal Rights

You have certain rights under the federal privacy standards. These include:

- The right to request restrictions on the use and disclosure of your PHI. However, we are not required to agree to a restriction you request.
- The right to receive confidential communications concerning your psychological/medical condition and treatment.
- The right to amend or submit corrections to your protected health information.
- The right to receive a printed copy of this notice.
- The right to file a complaint.
- The right to inspect and/or copy your PHI that may be used to make decisions about you, including client psychological/medical records and billing records, but not including psychotherapy notes. The client's provider can provide a summary of the client's PHI if in the professional judgment of the client's provider, providing the client with unlimited access to his/her PHI would cause emotional/mental distress or endanger the life or physical safety of the client or another person. A client does not have the right to access Psychotherapy Notes relating to him/her except (i) to the extent the client's treating professional approves such access in writing; or (ii) the client obtains a court order authorizing such access. A provider has 30 days to reply.

IV. Requests to Inspect PHI

As permitted by federal regulation, we require that requests to inspect or copy protected health information be submitted in writing. You may obtain a form to request access to your records by contacting us at 269-205-2402. We may deny your access to PHI under certain circumstances, but in many cases you may have this decision reviewed. On your request, we will discuss with you the details of the request and denial process.

V. Revise Privacy Practices

As permitted by law, we reserve the right to amend or modify this Notice of Privacy Practices. Any revision or amendment to this notice will be effective for all of your records that our practice has created or maintained in the past, and for any records that we may create or maintain in the future. We will post a copy of our current Notice in a visible location in our office at all times, and you may request a copy of our most current at any time.

VI. Complaints

If you are concerned that your privacy rights have been violated and you would like to submit a comment or complaint about our privacy practices, you can do so by sending a letter (all complaints must be in writing) outlining your concerns to:

Bret Hoxworth MA, LLP
White Oak Counseling and Recovery
4695 M37 Hwy, Suite A
Middleville, MI 49333

Or contact the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized or otherwise retaliated against for filing a complaint.

VII. Contact Person

For further information concerning our privacy practices, you can contact:

Bret Hoxworth MA, LLP
White Oak Counseling and Recovery
4695 M37 Hwy, Suite A
Middleville, MI 49333
269-205-2402