



**THERAPY CONTRACT
AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE/INFORMED CONSENT: MINOR**

Comprehensive Human Services Incorporated
DBA – Julieann Myers – Center for Healthy Change

Welcome! It is a pleasure to have you as a Client. We strive to make sure your treatment will be as therapeutically productive as possible. The specifics of the treatment goals and the steps to achieve these goals will be discussed at the Intake Appointment. Your participation and understanding of the treatment goals is essential for the best benefit of therapy.

You will be seen by:

Diane L. Moore, LCSW, ACSW. California License Number 28535

To help you have a meaningful therapeutic experience, your cooperation in the following areas is necessary:

Introduction: This Agreement has been created for the purpose of outlining the terms and conditions of services to be provided by the Therapist listed above (hereinafter “Therapist”), for the minor child(ren) _____ (hereinafter “Client”) and is intended to provide [name of parent(s)/legal guardian(s)] _____ (hereinafter “Representative(s)”) with important information regarding the practices, policies and procedures of Therapist, and to clarify the terms of the professional therapeutic relationship between Therapist and Patient. Any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this Agreement should be discussed with Therapist prior to signing it.

Policy Regarding Consent for the Treatment of a Minor Child

Therapist generally requires the consent of both parents prior to providing any services to a minor child. If any question exists regarding the authority of the Representative to give consent for psychotherapy, Therapist/agency will require that the Representative submit supporting legal documentation, such as a custody order, prior to the commencement of services. I can provide documentation of custody order if applicable. **Initial Here _____.**

Minors and Confidentiality: Communications between the Therapist and clients who are minors (under the age of 18) are confidential. However, parents and other guardians who provide authorization for their child’s treatment are encouraged to be involved in their treatment. With the minor's permission I will discuss the treatment progress of a minor client with the parent or caretaker, but not details that would decrease trust between the minor and myself. Minor clients and their parents are urged to discuss any questions or concerns that they have on this topic.

Orientation: It is the desire of this Therapist that the Client’s experience in counseling be a collaborative effort around manageable goals, that produce richer, happier and more productive living. The Client’s values and beliefs will be respected and there will be no intention to deliberately embarrass or manipulate the Client. At times the Therapist may encourage the Client to discuss issues that are uncomfortable, but always with the hope of improving the Client’s life and relationships.

Benefits and Risks of Therapy: Psychotherapy is a process in which the Therapist and the Client discuss a variety of issues, events, experiences and memories for the purpose of creating positive change so the Client can experience life more fully. It provides an opportunity to better, and more deeply understand oneself, as well as any problems or difficulties the Client may be experiencing. Psychotherapy is a joint effort between the Client and the Therapist. Progress and success may vary depending upon the particular problems or issues being addressed, as well as many

other factors. Participating in therapy may result in a number of benefits to the Client, including, but not limited to, reduced stress and anxiety, a decrease in negative thoughts and self-sabotaging behaviors, improved interpersonal relationships, increased comfort in social, work, and family settings, increased capacity for intimacy, and increased self-confidence. Such benefits may also require substantial effort on the part of the Client, including an active participation in the therapeutic process, honesty, and a willingness to change feelings, thoughts and behaviors. There is no guarantee that therapy will yield any or all of the benefits listed above and will usually take more than a few sessions of hard work to notice any sort of change. Because therapy is a process which takes time and commitment, each person involved in the counseling process is asked to regularly RATE their counseling sessions to show the intention of making a difference in his/her life through self awareness, insight, effort and dedication.

Participating in therapy may also involve some discomfort, including remembering and discussing unpleasant events, feelings and experiences. The process may evoke strong feelings of sadness, anger, fear, etc. There may be times in which the Therapist will challenge the Client's perceptions and assumptions, and offer different perspectives. The issues presented by the Client may result in unintended outcomes, including changes in personal relationships. The Client should be aware that any decision on the status of his/her personal relationship is the responsibility of the Client. During the therapeutic process many Clients find that they feel worse before they feel better. This is generally a normal course of events. Personal growth and change may be easy and swift at times, but it may also be slow and frustrating. The Client should address any concerns he/she has regarding his/her progress in therapy with the Therapist

Professional Consultation: Consultation is an important component of a healthy psychotherapy practice. As such, the Therapist's regularly participate in clinical, ethical, and legal consultation with appropriate professionals. During such consultations, the Therapist will not reveal any personal identifying information regarding the Client.

Records and Record Keeping: The Therapist may take notes during session, and will also produce other notes and records regarding the Client's treatment. These notes constitute the Therapist's clinical and business records, which by law, the Therapist is required to maintain. Such records are the sole property of the Therapist. The Therapist will not alter his/her normal record keeping process at the request of any Client/Representative. Should the Client/Representative request a copy of the Therapist's records such a request must be made in writing. The Therapist reserves the right, under California law, to provide the Client/Representative with a treatment summary in lieu of actual records. The Therapist also reserves the right to refuse to produce a copy of the record under certain circumstances, but may, as requested, provide a copy of the record to another treating health care provider. The Therapist will maintain the Client's records for ten years following termination of therapy. However, after seven years the Client's records will be destroyed in a manner that preserves the Client's confidentiality.

Confidentiality: The information disclosed by the Client is generally confidential and will not be released to any third party without written authorization from the Representative, except where required or permitted by law or:

1. It is agreed upon in writing,
2. The Client presents a present danger to self,
3. The Client presents a danger to others,
4. When a Client makes a serious threat of violence towards a reasonably identifiable victim,
5. Child/elder abuse/neglect is suspected,
6. The Therapist is required by law to inform potential victims and legal authorities so that protective measures can be taken.

If a judge determines that our discussions are not confidential, a judge may request specific information. It is understood that in cases #3 and #4 immediately above, the Therapist is required by law to inform potential victims and legal authorities so that protective measures can be taken.

If I participate in group counseling, I agree not to discuss any details of the group outside of the counseling sessions. **Initial Here ____.

According to California laws any kind of sexual contact, or asking for sexual contact, or sexual misconduct by a psychotherapist with a client is illegal as well as unethical (Business & Professional Code, Section 726, 728, and 498(k)).

Information regarding the Client's treatment plan, goals and progress may be shared with Center For Healthy Change staff if they are directly involved in your care: members of the practice team, other clinicians or practice staff for administrative purposes, or treatment coordination. **Initial Here** _____

****If you object to information being shared then please tell the person you are seeing.**

Client Litigation: The undersigned will neither individually nor jointly involve Julieann Myers, LCSW, or other Center for Healthy Change contracted therapist, in any litigation. The undersigned will neither request nor require Julieann Myers, LCSW provide testimony in court. The reason for this is so that treatment is not compromised, the therapeutic relationship with the family is maintained, and the child experiences their therapist in a clear, consistent, therapeutic role and not as an assessor or detective. If the services of a mental health professional are desired for court purposes, the services of a separate professional must be enlisted. **Initial Here** _____

Psychotherapist-Client Privilege: The information disclosed by the Client, as well as any records created, is subject to the psychotherapist-client privilege. The psychotherapist-client privilege results from the special relationship between the Therapist and the Client in the eyes of the law. It is akin to the attorney-client privilege or the doctor-patient privilege. Typically, the Client is the holder of the psychotherapist-client privilege. If the Therapist received a subpoena for records, deposition testimony, or testimony in a court of law, the Therapist will assert the psychotherapist-client privilege on the Client's behalf until instructed in writing to do otherwise by the Client or the Client's representative. The Client should be aware that he/she might be waiving the psychotherapist-client privilege if he/she makes his/her mental or emotional state an issue in a legal proceeding. The Client should address any concerns he/she might have regarding the psychotherapist-client privilege with his/her attorney.

Fee and Fee Arrangements: The fee you are quoted is comparable to most of the Therapist in this area. The Representative is expected to pay for services at the time services are rendered. It is asked that the Representative pay the Client's fee at the end of each session. **Make checks to payable to Julieann Myers.** THE REPRESENTATIVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHARGES DUE TO INSUFFICIENT CHECK FUNDS, Typically \$30.00. The usual and customary fee for services is \$190.00 per 50-minute session, sessions longer than 50 minutes (family sessions are 80 minutes @ \$285.00 per session) are charged for the additional time pro rata, \$50.00 per 15-minute in person or over the phone. Assessments, emergency sessions or sessions scheduled outside of customary business hours are subject to an additional fee which the Therapist will advise the Representative of prior to meeting with the Client. The Therapist reserves the right to periodically adjust this fee. The Representative will be notified of any fee adjustment in advance. In addition, this fee may be adjusted by contract with insurance companies, managed care organizations, or other third-party payers or by **agreement with the Therapist.**

The Therapist reserves the right to periodically adjust fees. The Client's fee will be re-evaluated regularly and also at those times when the Representative's financial circumstances change. The Representative will be notified of any fee adjustment in advance. From time-to-time, the Therapist may engage in telephone contact with the Client for purposes other than scheduling sessions. The Representative is responsible for payment of the agreed upon fee (on a pro rata basis) for any telephone calls longer than 10 minutes. In addition, from time-to-time, the Therapist may engage in telephone contact with third parties at the Client/Representative's request and with the Client/Representative's advance written authorization. The Representative is responsible for payment of the agreed upon fee (on a pro rata basis) for any telephone calls longer than 10 minutes. If the Representative chooses to pay by Mastercard or Visa the payee on their statement will be Comprehensive Human Services Inc. This is the name of The Therapist's Corporation.

Insurance: If you have insurance, please realize that you are responsible for submitting a billing statement directly to your insurance company for reimbursement and that full payment of the fee for services provided will be paid at each session. The Therapist is not a contracted provider with your insurance company or managed care organization, and the Therapist will provide the Representative with a statement (known as a superbill) which the Client may

submit to the third-party of his/her choice to seek reimbursement of fees already paid. The Representative is responsible for any and all fees not reimbursed by his/her insurance company, managed care organization, or any other third-party payor. The Representative is responsible for verifying and understanding the limits of the Client's coverage, as well as any copayments and/or deductibles.

Cancellations: The Representative is responsible for payment of the session for any missed session(s) not cancelled at least 24 hours in advance. Please call your therapist to cancel or leave other messages. Your Therapist will wait 15 minutes for you if you are late for an appointment. Please be advised if you are late the session may not be extended to make up for late starts.

Therapist Availability: The Therapist has a confidential voicemail, text messaging and email service that allows the Client/Representative to leave messages at any time. The Therapist will make every effort to return calls within 24 hours (or by the next business day), but cannot guarantee the calls will be returned immediately. The Therapist is unable to provide 24-hour crisis service. In the event that the Client is feeling unsafe or requires immediate medical or psychiatric assistance, he/she should call 911, call the Crisis Hotline at 1.800.724.7240, or go to the nearest emergency room.

Termination of Therapy: The Therapist reserves the right to terminate therapy at his/her discretion. Reasons for termination include, but are not limited to, untimely payment of fees, failure to comply with treatment recommendations, conflicts of interest, failure to participate in therapy, the Client's needs are outside of the Therapist's scope of competence or practice, or the Client is not making adequate progress in therapy. The Client has the right to terminate therapy at his/her discretion. Upon either party's decision to terminate therapy, the Therapist will generally recommend that the Client participate in at least one, or possibly more, termination sessions. These sessions are intended to facilitate a positive termination experience and give both parties an opportunity to reflect on the work that has been conducted. The Therapist will also attempt to ensure a smooth transition to another Therapist by offering referrals to the Client.

Acknowledgement: By signing below, the Representative acknowledges that he/she has reviewed and fully understands the terms and conditions of this agreement. The Representative has discussed such terms and conditions with the Therapist, and has had any questions with regard to its terms and conditions answered to the Representative's satisfaction. The Representative agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of this Agreement and consents to the Client's participation in psychotherapy with the Therapist. Moreover, the Representative agrees to hold the Therapist free and harmless from any claims, demands, or suits for damages from any injury or complications whatsoever, save negligence, that may result from such treatment. I understand that I am financially responsible to the Therapist for all charges, including unpaid charges by my insurance company or any other third-party payor.

AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE/INFORMED CONSENT

SIGNATURE PAGE:

Client Name (Please Print)

Signature of Client (or authorized Representative)

Date

Name of Responsible Party (if other than client) please print.

Signature of Responsible Party (if other than client)

Date