



Social Media Policy

Friending

We do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.). We believe that adding clients as friends or contacts on these sites can compromise confidentiality and privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic and professional relationship. If a friend or contact request submitted by you is accepted by the Wellness Center, please notify us immediately so that the connection can be discontinued.

Interacting

Please do not use SMS (mobile phone text messaging) or messaging on Social Networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, or LinkedIn to contact us. These sites are not secure and we may not read these messages in a timely fashion. Do not use Wall postings, @replies, or other means of engaging with us in public online if we have an already established client/therapist or professional relationship. Such communications will not be privileged and confidential and if you communicate online in such a fashion, you do so at your own risk. Engaging with us in this way could compromise your confidentiality and privacy. It may also create the possibility that these exchanges become a part of your legal/medical record and will need to be documented and archived in your chart/records.

If you need to contact us between sessions or appointments, the best way to do so is by phone. Direct emails are the second best option for quick, administrative issues such as changing appointment times.

Use of Search Engines

It is NOT a regular part of our practice to search for clients on Google or Facebook or other search engines. Extremely rare exceptions *may be* made during times of crisis. If we have a reason to suspect that you are in danger and you have not been in touch with anyone in the department via our usual means (coming to appointments, phone, or email) there *might be* an instance, in which, using a search engine (to find you, find someone close to you, or to check on your recent status updates) becomes necessary as part of ensuring your welfare and safety. These are unusual situations and if we ever resort to such means, we will fully document all such engagements.

Location-Based Services

If you used location-based services on your mobile phone, you may wish to be aware of the privacy issues related to using these services. We do not place our department as a check-in location on various sites. However, if you have GPS tracking enabled on your device, it is possible that others may surmise that you are seeing a (counselor, nurse, etc.) due to regular check-ins at the office. Please be aware of this risk if you are intentionally "checking in" from our department or if you have a passive location-based service app enabled on your phone.

Email

We prefer using email only to arrange or modify appointments. Please do not email us "content" related to your therapy sessions/appointments, as email is not completely secure or confidential. If you choose to communicate with us by email, be aware that all emails are retained in the logs of your and our Internet service providers. While it is unlikely that someone will be looking at these logs, they are, in theory, available to be read by the system administrator(s) of the Internet service provider. You should also know that any emails we receive from you and any responses that we send to you become a part of your file.