

## **INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

This document contains important information about the decision (yours and your SCS care provider) to resume in-person services, in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully, and let your counselor know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between you and Seattle Counseling Service (SCS).

### **Decision to Meet Face-to-Face**

You, along with your SCS care provider, have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, SCS may require you to meet with your provider via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, please talk about it with your counselor, so that they can help you address any issues you may be having with telehealth. You understand that if your SCS care provider believes it is necessary, they may determine that you must return to telehealth for everyone's well-being.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, your SCS care providers will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so there may be a time when telehealth visits are no longer covered by your insurance.

### **Risks of Opting for In-Person Services**

You understand that by coming to Seattle Counseling Service, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus, or other public health risks. This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

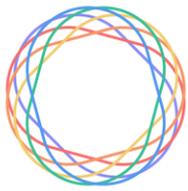
### **SCS Commitment to Minimize Exposure**

SCS 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 your counselor know if you have questions about these efforts.

### **If You or your Care Provider Are Sick**

You understand that SCS is committed to keeping you, SCS staff, and all of our loved ones safe from the spread of Covid-19 and other illnesses. If you show up for an appointment and SCS staff believe that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, SCS will require you to leave the office immediately. Your counselor will contact you by phone to reschedule.

If your care provider, or other SCS staff test present during your visit, test positive for the coronavirus, SCS will notify you so that you can take appropriate precautions.



### **Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure**

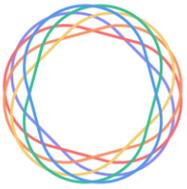
To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, your care providers, and our families, SCS staff, and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our returning to a telehealth arrangement. Initial each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will only keep 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 due to concerns about Covid-related illness, you will NOT be charged a cancellation fee. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will wait outside the building 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 therapy room. For example, you won't move chairs or sit where we have signs asking you not to sit. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the office (All SCS staff will, too). \_\_\_\_\_
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet from all people, and there will be no physical contact with me or any other staff member (except for medical appointments). \_\_\_\_\_
- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands. \_\_\_\_\_
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID. \_\_\_\_\_
- If you have a job that has exposed you to other people who are infected, you will immediately let SCS know, and plan to resume treatment via telehealth. \_\_\_\_\_
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the Covid-19, you will immediately let SCS know, and plan to resume treatment via telehealth. \_\_\_\_\_

SCS may change the above precautions if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, your counselor or medical provider will talk about any changes.

### **Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection**

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, SCS may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If we have to report this, SCS will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection, and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for your visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that SCS may disclose to King County Public Health, your name and contact information if necessary to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



**SEATTLE  
COUNSELING  
SERVICE**

### **Informed Consent for In-Person Treatment During Covid-19 Pandemic**

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreement that you agreed to at the start of your work with your care providers at SCS.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient/Client

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clinician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic**

SCS is taking the following precautions to protect our visitors from Covid-19.

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- Office seating in the waiting room and in therapy rooms has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- SCS staff wear masks during sessions and in all public spaces at SCS.
- SCS staff maintains safe distancing.
- Restroom soap dispensers are maintained. Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands.
- Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is available in all rooms at SCS.
- We schedule appointments at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting room.
- We ask all patients to wait 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 and frequently refreshed.
- Common areas are thoroughly disinfected throughout each day.