

## INFORMED CONSENT FOR ONLINE COUNSELING

Benjamin Meyer, LCSW & LCSW-R  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
NJ License # 44SC05800500  
NY License # 0827721

**General Notice:** This Informed Consent Document is to be signed whenever there is contact between you (the client) and another person or provider whenever you choose to receive online counseling services at any time during your counseling work with Benjamin Meyer, LCSW

### Technology:

- Benjamin Meyer, LCSW will use HIPPA compliant video services to assure confidentiality.
- You are responsible for securing your own computer hardware, internet access points, and password security.
- Benjamin Meyer, LCSW is not liable for confidentiality breaches when they are caused by client error.
- Benjamin Meyer, LCSW is not responsible for client equipment failure (e.g.: camera, and/or internet service).
- Benjamin Meyer, LCSW is not responsible for lapses in confidentiality that are in direct response to the client's actions.

**Disconnection Problems:** If video services are not available due to an unplanned equipment or service malfunction, sessions will occur via telephone, Benjamin Meyer, LCSW will call the number you have put on file.

**Recordings are Prohibited:** Clients are not allowed to make an audio or video recording of any portion of the session.

### Risk of Harm

- Online Counseling is not a crisis based clinical service.
- Online counseling may not be appropriate for clients with active suicidal or homicidal thoughts or clients who are experiencing acute mental health problems, such as manic or psychotic symptoms.
- It is the responsibility of the client to inform Benjamin Meyer, LCSW if they are at risk of harm to self or others.

- If through intake evaluation or subsequent psychotherapy sessions, Benjamin Meyer, LCSW determines that a client is at risk of harm to self or others, Benjamin Meyer, LCSW will terminate the sessions while providing alternative referral suggestions.
- If a client who was not formerly at risk should become at risk of harm to self or others, they must immediately report it to Benjamin Meyer, LCSW. In these cases, Benjamin Meyer, LCSW will discontinue online counseling and continue with traditional counseling. If you are unwilling or unable to come to the office, of Benjamin Meyer, LCSW will provide a list of three referrals in your area.

**Confidentiality:** The confidentiality laws and rules listed in the **Psychotherapy Contract** document signed by you, also apply to online psychotherapy.

**Client’s Physical Location:** State licensing laws prohibit Benjamin Meyer, LCSW from conducting psychotherapy in any states where he is not licensed. Generally, licensing is determined by the physical location of the client. Currently, Benjamin Meyer, LCSW is licensed in the states of New York and New Jersey, and he can work in Pennsylvania during the coronavirus crisis. If you are not physically located in either of these states at the beginning of online counseling sessions, the sessions will not be able to take place and will immediately be terminated and rescheduled. Late cancellation fees may apply.

**Payments:** Benjamin Meyer, LCSW utilizes HIPPA compliant credit card services for payment. Arrangements for credit card payments will be made at the beginning of the first counseling session when the client will provide a valid credit/debit card to put on file.

**No Shows or Late Cancellations:** Clients who do not adhere to their appointments are responsible for the full cost of the session. Benjamin Meyer, LCSW will process the no show or late cancellation payments on the day they occur. You agree to allow Benjamin Meyer, LCSW to utilize the credit/debit card on file to process no-show or late cancellation fees.

I understand the risks and limitations of online psychotherapy. By signing this consent, I agree to abide by its content and agree to all conditions listed.

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Client Name (Print)

Date

Signature

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Client Name (Print)

Date

Signature