

Clients Rights and Responsibilities

We want you to be aware of your rights.

I. Your Rights

1. Confidentiality: In the usual course of events, you have the right to keep your counseling here completely private. This means that, without your written permission, no information about your contact with Dr. Comin is available to anyone outside of this practice. However, there are certain exceptions, noted below, with which you should be aware before you enter into a counseling relationship. Please read carefully through these exceptions, and be sure to ask me if you have any questions.

Exceptions to Confidentiality

- If appropriate, I may consult with your treating physician or other healthcare provider.
- If you pose a threat of harm to yourself, to another person, I will take whatever steps are required by law, or permitted by law, to help prevent the potential harm from happening. This may include contacting your family and/or the police;
- In the event of a psychiatric hospitalization; if you report information indicating that a child, disabled, or elderly person is suffering abuse or neglect;
- A court order, issued by a judge, could require us to release information contained in your records, or could require a therapist to testify;

2. Release of Information: You have the right to discuss with me what information is in your record, and if you sign a release of information authorizing me to share information with outside sources, you have a right to discuss specifically what information will be released.

3. You have the right to end your counseling at any time.

4. You have the right to request a different therapist of your choice outside of this practice.

5. You have the right to obtain an evaluation for the issue that brings you here. If we are unable to be of help, we will make every effort to refer you to appropriate outside treatment.

6. You have the right to be informed about the services available to you here, and, unless it is an emergency, to participate in the process of deciding whether or not to utilize these services.

7. You always maintain the right to question the focus of your sessions;

8. You have the right to know the credentials of your therapist;

9. You have the right or to ask for a second opinion.

10. You have the right to present a complaint, knowing that your care will not be compromised in any way.

II. Your Responsibilities

1. Keep your scheduled appointments and let us know as soon as possible if you cannot keep one.

2. Be as honest and open as possible in therapy.

3. Between sessions, think through the concerns you are addressing in therapy.

4. Follow through on treatment recommendations and complete your counseling homework assignments.

5. I ask that you end your work with us in a termination session, rather than not keeping your appointment. This way you can share and discuss with me what was useful and what could have been improved.

6. If you feel that you might harm yourself or others, please call, during the hours of 9am to 8pm Monday through Thursday and 9am to 3pm on Fridays. After these hours please call 911 for all emergencies.

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____