

Telepsychology Services Consent Form

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing practices currently in place, we are offering teletherapy sessions in place of in-person, face to face sessions. This consent form will go over the issues you need to know and understand before participating in teletherapy. It also includes instructions regarding how to get set up for your teletherapy session prior to your scheduled appointment time.

DEFINITION OF SERVICES

Telepsychology services (also known as teletherapy) are a form of psychological service provided via secure internet technology. It has the same purpose or intention as psychotherapy or psychological treatment sessions that are conducted face-to-face. Due to the nature of the technology used, telepsychology services may be experienced somewhat differently than face-to-face treatment sessions. Teletherapy involves arranging an appointment time between a client and a psychologist when both parties can interface from their computers via the internet.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

You, the client, need to be a resident of Ontario and present in Ontario for your telepsychology sessions.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need a computer with secure internet access (e.g., not public wifi) and webcam ability. You will need a quiet, private space for your session time. You will also need access to a phone in the same room. You will need to provide your psychologist with your phone number and location. This ensures that if the video session is interrupted for any reason, we can switch to phone connection to complete the session. Providing your location ensures that in case of a crisis or safety issue, your psychologist can send emergency help to your location. Please turn off any applications and notifications for the duration of your session. Ensure you have updated anti-viral and anti-malware software.

OUR TELEPSYCHOLOGY SERVICE PROVIDER AND EFFORTS AT QUALITY AND SECURITY

The web platform we currently use is doxy.me (<https://doxy.me>). That platform currently meets our professional privacy and confidentiality standards. We may, from time to time, use other similar web platforms with equivalent or superior privacy and confidentiality standards.

In order to access the video session you simply need to click on the link located in the top left corner of our home page for Dr. Scarth or Dr. McKillop five minutes before your scheduled session time. You enter your name to the prompt and then we will connect with you when your session is due to start. You do not need to download any application or install any software.

YOUR RIGHTS AND RISKS WHEN USING TELEPSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

You always have the right to withdraw consent at any time. It will not affect your right to further treatment. The laws and professional standards that apply to regular psychological services also apply to telepsychology services. For further information regarding those laws and standards, please visit the College of Psychologists of Ontario (<http://www.cpo.on.ca/>).

Under certain circumstances, we may be required to disclose personal and/or health information. For more details on exceptions to client confidentiality, please review our privacy information form (<http://scarthmckillop.ca/resource/privacy.pdf>).

Despite our best efforts to ensure high encryption and secure technology, there is always a risk that transmission could be breached and accessed by unauthorized persons.

There is a risk that services could be disrupted or distorted by unforeseen technical problems. Please provide feedback to your therapist should you find the quality insufficient for your needs.

You agree not to record any sessions without first obtaining permission from your psychologist.

There is a risk of being overheard by anyone near you if you do not place yourself in a private room. You may wish to create a comfortable and safe environment at your end of the transmission.

It is the responsibility of the psychological treatment provider to do the same on their end.

PAYMENT

Payment for telepsychology services can be made by Visa or Mastercard. Processing can be done remotely. We can take your card number, expiry date and CVC code during your video or phone session and send you an receipt by email.

If you prefer to send an e-transfer for payment, this can be done prior to your scheduled session.

To review our current fee schedule, please visit <http://www.scarthmckillop.ca/new/fee03182019.pdf>.

Date

Your Signature

Your Name

Psychologist

Please fax (519-435-0057) or email a signed copy of the above document to either karen.scarth@protonmail.com or jeff.mckillop@protonmail.com.