

Powhatan Family Counseling and Education Center

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Electronic Communication and Social Media Policy

The use of various types of electronic communications is common in our society today. However, many of these common modes of communication put your privacy at risk and can be inconsistent with the law and standards of practice of my profession. Consequently, this policy has been prepared to assure the security and confidentiality of your treatment and to ensure that it is consistent with professional ethics and the law.

Email Communications

I use email communication and text messaging only with your permission and only for administrative purposes. This means that email exchanges with me should be limited to things like setting and changing appointments, billing matters, and other related issues. Please do not email me about clinical matters because email is not a secure way to contact me. If you need to discuss a clinical matter with me, please feel free to call me so we can discuss it on the phone or wait so we can discuss it during the therapy session. The telephone or face to face context simply is much more secure as a mode of communication.

Text Messaging

Because text messaging is a very insecure and impersonal mode of communication, I do not text messages to persons in treatment with me. Please do not text messages to me unless we have made other arrangements.

Social Media

I do not communicate with, or contact any of my clients through social media platforms including but not limited to Twitter and Facebook. These types of casual social contacts can create significant security risks for you.

Website

I have a website that you are free to access, www.powhatanfamilycounseling.com. I use it to share professional information about myself and my practice. I encourage you to review the information that I have on the website and if you have any questions about it, we can discuss this during your therapy sessions.

Web Searches

I will not use web searches to gather information about you. I believe that this violates your privacy rights. However, I understand that you might choose to gather information about me in this way. In this day and age there is an incredible amount of information available about individuals on the internet, some of which may actually be know to that person and some of which may be inaccurate or unknown. If you encounter any information about me thorough web searches, or in any fashion for that matter, please discuss it with me during our time together so that we can deal with it and its potential impact on your treatment.