

# FORMATION COUNSELING SERVICES, INC.

*A Ministry of Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

## INFORMATION REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY

It is important that you know that any information you reveal in your psychotherapy or counseling sessions will be kept strictly confidential. Your therapist will not disclose any information obtained in your sessions, including the results of psychological tests, to anyone outside this agency without your written permission. This means your therapist will not even acknowledge to other persons or agencies that you are attending sessions without your written permission.

Consultation regarding your situation may occur between therapists at this agency, and it will be in your best interest when this occurs. However, every effort will be made to protect your identity even in these consultations within the agency.

Parents of children receiving psychological services should know that New Mexico law protects children as well as adults from the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.

It is also important that you know that there are legal limits with regard to confidentiality. In certain situations your therapist is required by law to reveal information obtained during therapy to other persons or agencies, even without your permission. These situations include, but are not limited to, situations where there is a reasonable suspicion of: a threat of serious harm to yourself or to another person; or any type of child abuse, or elder abuse, or abuse of other dependent adults who are not able to protect their rights.

An abused child is defined, in the State of New Mexico, in part, as a child who has suffered, or who is at the risk of suffering, serious harm because of the action or inaction of the child's parent or guardian. Physical abuse of children, elders or other dependent adults, may include, but is not limited to, situations where there is evidence of skin bruising or welts, bleeding, fracture of a bone, or other evidence of injury. Abuse of children or adults may include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse.

Please note that if your therapist has a legal requirement to reveal confidential information to other persons or agencies, due to one of the situations described above, and if a person involved in the situation is an undocumented person, it is possible that the legal proceedings that follow will result in deportation. At the same time, your therapist has no motivation and no legal requirement to report people to authorities simply because they are undocumented.

I have read and understood the above information. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had any questions answered to my satisfaction.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name \_\_\_\_\_