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INFORMED CONSENT

This handout is being made available to you to help summarize some of the important aspects of the therapy services being offered by Julia Gerhardt, LCSW, LLC.

All sessions are considered confidential. There are a number of Idaho statutes, however, that do not allow total confidentiality. There are certain circumstances when mental health professionals may be required to break confidentiality. These circumstances may include:

- If the client presents a clear and present danger to himself and refuses to accept recommended and appropriate treatment, the clinician may release relevant information to protect the client.
- If the client communicates to the clinician an actual threat of physical violence or has a history of violence which is known to the clinician, and the clinician has a reasonable basis to believe that there is a clear and present danger of physical violence against a clearly identified or reasonably identifiable victim(s), relevant information may be released to protect the potential victim(s).
- If there is a threat of imminently dangerous activity by the client against himself, herself, or another person(s), the clinician may disclose client communications for the purpose of placing or retaining the client in a psychiatric hospital.
- If the client introduces his/her mental conditions as an element of claim or defense in a legal proceeding, the judges may order clinician to disclose confidential client communications.
- In any case of child custody or adoption, a judge may order the clinician to disclose confidential client communications if the judges determine that the clinician has evidence bearing significantly on the client's ability to provide suitable care or custody and it is more important to the welfare of the child that the communication be disclosed than that of the relationship between client and the clinician be protected.
- If, after death of the client, any party acting on the behalf of the descendant introduces evidence of the client's mental condition as an element of claim or defense, the judges may order the clinician to disclose confidential communications.
- The clinician may provide diagnostic or treatment information to an insurance company or review board, non-profit hospital or medical service corporation, or health maintenance organization for the purpose of administration or provision of benefits and expenses.
- If the clinician, in his/her professional capacity, has reasonable cause to believe that a child, under the age of eighteen years is suffering serious physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse inflicted upon the child (including mental abuse) or from negligence (including malnutrition), the clinician is required to report the information to the authorities.
- If the clinician has reasonable cause to believe that an elderly person (over the age 60) or handicapped disabled person over the age of 17 has died or is suffering abuse, the clinician may be obligated to report this information to the proper state agency.

Please feel free to discuss this policy with me if you have any questions.

Finally, it is important that you recognize therapy has risks as well as potential benefits. In general, we believe the potential benefits outweigh the risks; however, some people undergoing therapy have more symptoms and more dysfunction before they feel better. There are types of therapy that have more potential risks than others. Please take an active part in participating with your therapist in discussing his or her understanding of the identified problem and the potential risks and benefits of the recommended treatment.

Client/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____