

Heather R. Harding, LMHC, LLC

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Independent Therapist

License#: MH7804

Office Procedures Couples Therapy

I would like to welcome you to my office and thank you for coming. During the initial visit you will be asked to complete some routine forms which will include a new client information form and an informed consent for couples' therapy.

Couples therapy is most helpful if you can commit to a minimum of six months of treatment, sometimes longer. However, the number of sessions required for couples therapy will depend on the issues to be addressed, the recommendations made by myself, and your commitment to working through the issues. Looking at your couples' relationship is hard work and at times can be stressful. The first five sessions of therapy is used to assess the needs and concerns of the couple. It is to be understood that participating in therapy is a way to better understand yourself as well as your relationship. You are free at any time to terminate therapy. You are free at any time to terminate the couples' therapy. However, if you feel termination is necessary, it is recommended to discuss your reasons for termination **in-person** and I recommend two to three additional sessions are scheduled for proper closure. Ending the therapeutic relationship is an important part of the process and it honors that relationship to meet in person. It is not appropriate to use texting, email, or voicemail to end therapy. Rather, it should be a conversation we have together.

Couples' sessions are 60 minutes in length and the fee is *\$175 per session*. Every January 1st I will have a fee increase that reflect the cost of living increase. You will be notified in a timely manner of the new fee. Payment is required at the time of the scheduled session. I accept cash, check, and credit cards. If a check is returned for nonsufficient funds, the client will be charged a fee \$32. Telephonic or Skype sessions can be discussed and arranged, if appropriate, and will be charged at the regular session rate. All cancellations require a **three business day** notification. When scheduling appointments you are reserving your specific time for your therapy. If such notice is not given regardless of reason, you will be charged the regular session fee. I do not accept cancelled sessions on my voicemail. If you need to cancel a session, please call my office. Cancelled sessions should be discussed in-person or with a phone conversation. Please be assured that all information I receive from you will be kept **strictly confidential** (as obeyed by the law). Absolutely no information will be released about you or your case to anyone without your written authorization and consent. Please note that I am a mandated reporter and there are exceptions to the law of confidentiality. Such instances include the following:

- 1) If I have reason to believe that you or another individual is in physical danger, including a child or elder person and/or are participating in therapy for the purpose of committing a crime.
- 2) A court order. This might include: when your emotional or mental condition is important information for a court's decision; during a civil commitment hearing for psychiatric hospitalization; if you are seeking a court ordered evaluation; or under the provisions of the Patriot Act. Agents of Homeland Security may request information on you form me without notifying you and prohibiting me from informing you that you are under investigation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to bring them to my attention. I will be with you shortly.

Client's Signatures

Date

Heather R. Harding, LMHC/ Date

Client's Printed Names

Date