

**FEATHERGILL AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (F&A)**

**INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**Client Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

This document contains important information about the decision of F&A to resume in-person services in light of the current status of the COVID-19 public health crisis. F&A's decision is based in part on recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Indiana State Department of Health, and the St. Joseph County Department of Health, but other factors may also be considered. Some of these include but are not limited to: whether we and our families have been vaccinated, our health or the health of those we are in close contact with, and risk of exposure outside of this setting. There may be other concerns that need to be discussed. It is up to each Therapist Associate to determine whether they will offer in-person sessions to their clients based on their own unique situation, and discuss this with their clients. Therapists have cleared their decision to offer in-person sessions with F&A, and have provided proof of vaccination to F&A.

If you and your therapist have decided to return to in-person therapy, please read this carefully and let your therapist know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between you, your therapist, and F&A.

**Decision to Meet Face-to-Face**

You and your therapist have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, your therapist or F&A may require that you meet via telehealth for everyone's well-being. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, you and your therapist will talk about it first and try to address any issues.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, your therapist will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so your therapist or our Billing Associate will discuss any financial implications if needed.

**Risks of Opting for In-Person Services**

You understand that by coming to the office of F&A, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

**Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure**

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions that will help keep everyone (you, the Associates of F&A, families, friends, and other clients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting / returning to a telehealth arrangement. By signing below, I agree to the following stipulations:

- 1. Vaccination Required:** I understand that in order to return to in-person treatment F&A requires that I am vaccinated, and that I provide proof of vaccination. By signing below, I stipulate that I have had the opportunity to discuss this with my therapist and agree to this.

2. **Only clients may attend:** To minimize the risk of infection, I understand that only clients of F&A may attend sessions. For example, if I am the client, I will not bring my child(ren), partner, or friend. However, if I am a parent or guardian, I may bring my child and remain in the office during the appointment.
  
3. **Reasons to Cancel/Return to Telehealth (Cancellations made for these reasons, even if less than 24 hours, will not incur our late cancellation fee)**
  - a. I will only keep my in-person appointment if I am free of symptoms associated with coronavirus: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
  - b. If I have such symptoms or if I have been in contact with someone who has tested positive within the last 14 days, I will cancel my appointment and agree to begin or resume treatment via telehealth.
  
4. **Procedure upon arrival:**
  - a. I will wait in my car or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before my appointment time, upon which time I may enter and sit in the waiting room.
  - b. I will use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when I enter the building.
  - c. I will adhere to the safe distancing precautions in the waiting room and therapy room. For example, I won't move chairs or sit where there are signs asking clients not to sit.
  - d. I will allow my therapist to take my temperature with a no-touch forehead thermometer.
  - e. I will allow my therapist to make a copy of my vaccination card.
  
5. **In the office:**
  - a. I will wear a mask in all areas of the office, with the exception that I may be able to remove my mask in my therapist's office upon agreement with my therapist.
  - b. I will keep a distance of 6 feet from others and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with my therapist, other clients, or staff.
  - c. If the client is a child for whom I am a parent or guardian, I will make sure the child follows all of these sanitation and distancing protocols.

#### **F&A Commitment to Minimize Exposure**

Masks and hand sanitizer are available inside the door to our offices. Our practice has taken additional steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office and we have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let us know if you have questions about these efforts.

#### **If You or your Therapist are Sick**

You understand that your therapist is committed to keeping you, him/herself and all of our families, friends and the community safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and your therapist believes that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believes you have been exposed to coronavirus, you agree to leave the office immediately. Your therapist can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate. If your therapist or any other staff of F&A test positive for the coronavirus, your therapist will notify you so that you can reschedule and take appropriate precautions.

**Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection**

If you inform us that you have tested positive for the coronavirus, F&A may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If F&A has to report this, only the minimum information necessary for their data collection will be reported, and we will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that F&A may do so without an additional signed release.

**Informed Consent**

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreements that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient/Client

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Feathergill and Associates, LLC**

### **In-Person Sessions Policy**

As states and jurisdictions are beginning to reopen, we are still in the midst of a pandemic that is affecting our lives. Feathergill and Associates has sought to provide optimal safety for our clients, our associates and our community by providing teletherapy services only. As of this date, however, some of our associates will begin offering clients the option of in-person sessions. Each therapist has the right and obligation to determine their own and their family's health needs, so please discuss the possibility of returning in-person with your therapist.

#### **Office Safety Precautions in Effect for In-person Therapy:**

Our office is taking the following precautions to protect our patients and help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

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- CDC Guidelines for provision of in-person care will always be followed.
- Only vaccinated clients are eligible to return to in-person care.
- It is the obligation of each client to cancel their in-person appointment if they are having any symptoms associated with coronavirus, or have been exposed to someone who may have coronavirus.
- Vaccination cards will be requested from each client and copied the first time you return to in-person care.
- Office seating in the waiting room and in therapy/testing rooms has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- All Associates and Clients will wear masks. If you need a mask, please take one immediately upon entering the office from the table next to the door.
- All Associates and Clients will maintain safe distancing.
- Please use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the office. Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is available upon entering the office, the waiting room and in therapist offices.
- We will schedule appointments at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting room. No more than 4 people will be allowed in the waiting room. Chairs are marked for use/non-use.
- We ask all patients to wait in their cars or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before their appointment times.
- Furniture and all items that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized after each use.
- Magazines and books have been removed from the waiting room.
- Each therapy office has an Air Filter machine with a HEPA Filter to reduce possible virus transmission.
- Physical contact is not permitted due to the risk of virus transmission.
- Tissues and trash bins are easily accessed. Trash is disposed of on a frequent basis.
- Common areas are thoroughly disinfected at least at the end of each day, or more frequently.