



Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Client #: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Informed Consent for In-Person Services During COVID-19 Public Health Crisis**

This document contains important information about in-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please read this carefully and let us know if you have any questions. After you sign this document or provide verbal approval, it will be an official agreement.

### **Decision to meet face-to-face**

We have agreed to meet in-person for some or all future sessions. If COVID-19 or other health concerns arise, Washburn Center may require that we meet again via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, your clinician will be available to discuss further.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer returning to telehealth services, please discuss this with your clinician to determine whether it is clinically appropriate. Please note that insurance companies, the state, county, and federal government are the ultimate decision makers regarding reimbursement of telehealth services, which means this may be a factor we will need to discuss.

### **Risks of in-person services**

You understand that coming in for office visits (at one of our 3 locations or in a school) or meeting at your home or in the community means you assume the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19 (or other public health risks). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

We have worked closely with transportation companies to ensure cleaning and sanitation practices are in effect. However, we do not oversee those processes or protocols. If you have questions on their processes, you will need to follow up with the appropriate transportation providers.

### **Responsibility to minimize your potential exposure**

To obtain in-person services at any location, you agree to follow precautionary measures to help keep everyone (you, other clients, and Washburn Center staff) safer from exposure and illness related to COVID-19.

If you do not adhere to the following safeguards, it may result in starting/returning to telehealth for your care.

- Only attend your in-person appointment if you and others in your household are symptom free.
- Take temperatures before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100.4 Fahrenheit or more), or if you (or others in your household) have other symptoms of COVID-19, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. If you wish to cancel for this reason, Washburn Center will not charge a cancellation fee.
- If attending any office (Washburn Center or School) location please do not enter the building more than 5 minutes before the scheduled appointment.
- Wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building or before session.
- For Washburn Center locations, adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy rooms. For example, don't move chairs or sit where we have signs asking you not to sit.
- Wear a mask in all areas of the office (except group services) as well as in homes or community locations. Washburn Center staff will wear masks while meeting with all clients. Children 5-years-old and up must wear masks.
- Keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with Washburn Center staff (except group services).
- Try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash

or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer for your hands.

- During sessions, exposure to others should be limited. When possible, individuals who are not actively participating in the session should leave the room / shared space (e.g., go into another room). If your child(ren) or other family members must attend sessions, you will make sure that your everyone follows all of the sanitation practices and distancing protocols.
- Take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure.
- If you have a job as an essential provider that exposes you to other people who are infected, you will immediately inform your Washburn Center provider.
- If a resident of your home or someone you have been in contact with tests positive for COVID-19, you will immediately inform Washburn Center. We will schedule treatment via telehealth, if appropriate.

Washburn Center will:

- Ensure that areas are sanitized using CDC-approved products.
- Have staff wear masks at all times when with clients and other staff.
- Have hand washing and/or alcohol-based sanitizer available. Staff will wash/sanitize their hands before and after each client visit.
- Maintain social distance with staff and clients as able.

We may adjust precautions if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, your clinician or Washburn Center staff will connect about any necessary changes.

### **Our commitment to minimize potential exposure**

Our agency has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 within the office and community locations. We have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let your clinician know if you have questions about these efforts.

### **COVID-19 precautions and steps**

We are committed to doing our best to protect Washburn Center staff, clients and all of our families from COVID-19. If you show up for an appointment and Washburn Center staff believe that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, we will require you to leave the office immediately, if in the community we will leave the session immediately. We can follow up via telehealth as appropriate.

If a staff member at Washburn Center tests positive for COVID-19 and has been in close contact with you, we will notify you so that you can take appropriate precautions. If you are part of a group service, we will notify group members of illness or suspected illness without identifying information.

### **Your confidentiality in the case of infection**

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, Washburn Center may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If we have to report this, we will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that Washburn Center staff may do so without an additional signed release.

### **Indemnification and Hold Harmless**

You agree to hold harmless Washburn Center for Children and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any and all actions, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, relating to any claim of exposure, infection, injury or illness concerning COVID-19 arising from participation in our services.

***This assumption of risk, waiver and agreement applies even if the undersigned asserts the program was at fault for not taking greater precautions to manage exposure or infection from COVID-19 and the pandemic. Participants and their families assume the risk of illness and injury, as outlined in this document.***

**Informed Consent**

This agreement supplements the general consent for treatment that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Legal Guardian  
(or Client if over 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Client

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date