

# **Confidentiality Policy**

## **Labrys Counseling,**

### **Marlene Talbott-Green, Ph.D**

In general, the privacy of all communications between a patient and a licensed Professional Clinical Counselor are protected by law, and I can only release information about our work to others with your written permission. But there are a few exceptions. In most legal proceedings, you have the right to prevent me from providing any information about your treatment. In some proceedings involving child custody and those in which your emotional condition is an important issue, a judge may order my testimony if he/she determines that the issues demand it. In terms of Distance Counseling, laws vary from state to state, but it is my responsibility, as a NBCC Certified Distance Counselor, to make online communications as private and confidential as state of the art technology will facilitate.

There are some situations in which I am legally obligated to take action to protect others from harm, even if I have to reveal some information about a client's treatment. For example, if I believe that a child, elderly person, or disabled person is being abused, I may be required to file a report with the appropriate state agency. If I believe that a patient is threatening serious bodily harm to another, I may be required to take protective actions.

These actions may include notifying the potential victim, contacting the police, or seeking hospitalization for the patient. If the patient threatens to harm himself/herself, I may be obligated to seek hospitalization for him/her or to contact family members or others, who can help provide protection. These situations have very rarely occurred in my practice. If a similar situation occurs, I will make every effort to fully discuss it with you before taking any action.

While this written summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, it is important that we discuss any questions or concerns that you may have at our next meeting. I will be happy to discuss these issues with you, if you need specific advice, but formal legal advice may be needed, because the laws governing confidentiality are quite complex and I am not an attorney. Where inter-state or Distance Counseling is being provided, you should consult the laws of your particular state in this regard, because I can only be responsible to the laws of the State of Ohio.

Your signature below indicates that you have read the information in this document and agree to abide by its terms during our professional relationship.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_