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E-MAIL CONSENT

While e-mail provides a convenient way for us to communicate, I want to be sure that you are aware of certain risks that are involved with its use. If after reading about these risks, you are still comfortable with using e-mail as a means of communicating simple messages, please sign on the line at the bottom of this page.

First, e-mail is NOT an appropriate medium for communicating about an emergency. I do not check e-mail often, and e-mail messages, more so than phone messages, are easily misinterpreted and misunderstood. In case of emergency, call 911 or go to your nearest hospital emergency room, or, if you can wait for a return phone call, contact me via telephone.

Second, e-mail is NOT CONFIDENTIAL. It may be intercepted, forwarded, altered and/or read by others. I cannot promise you that messages sent to me via e-mail, will not be seen by others. I do not have the capability of encrypting your messages to me, or mine to you. Even after I delete your e-mail, a copy of it may exist on my hard drive. In addition, e-mail messages may transmit viruses, putting your computer at risk. Last, e-mail messages are a part of your client record. As such, they may be disclosed under the exceptions to confidentiality as outlined in the HIPAA regulations.

Third, matters that are sensitive and/or complicated are best discussed in session, or, if they cannot wait until our next session, they can be conveyed in a telephone message. E-mails are ideally suited to such matters as scheduling issues and the conveying of simple information (i.e., the name of a book). An e-mail exchange is never a substitute for a psychotherapy session.

Fourth, e-mails are not fail-safe. They may get lost in cyberspace. If I haven't replied to an e-mail message that you sent to me within 48 hours, it is safest to assume that I never received it, and it is best to follow up with a phone call.

Fifth, if you send e-mails from work, your employer may have the right to read your e-mail.

If you still wish to communicate via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address below:

Preferred e-mail address: _____

I am aware of the risks involved in communicating with Teresa B. Olson, PsyD via e-mail, and still wish to engage in e-mail communication.

Print Name

Signature

Date