

Faith LaMunyon, LICSW
Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker

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COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This document outlines my policies related to the use of social media. Social media includes online communications to seek and share information, provide professional services, and send or receive information. Examples include phone calls, emails, texting, Facebook, and other online mediums. Please note that social media may not protect your privacy and is considered public communication. The use of it to provide services is only done with your approval.

Phone:

If you feel you need to contact me between sessions for any urgent clinical matter, please call the confidential answering service for the practice at 401-384-6339. I will get back to you within 24 hours, unless otherwise discussed.

Email / Text:

I use email and/or text only to schedule or modify appointments as needed. I will respond to your email or text within 24 hours, unless otherwise noted. At times, there may be clinically appropriate reasons to communicate via text or email, however, I will only do so after documenting your written consent. Please be aware these methods of communication can compromise confidentiality as it is not completely secure. Do not use emails for emergencies or crisis because I have limited business hours in which I check my emails. Any email or text message received or sent is documented and becomes a part of your clinical record.

Friends

I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram etc) because this may compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship. If you have questions about this or content you wish to share with me from your social media site, bring them to a psychotherapy session for discussion.

Use of Search Engines

It is not a part of my practice to search for clients on Google or Facebook or other search engines. A rare exception may be made during a crisis when I have a reason to suspect you may be in danger to yourself or others and you have not been in touch with me via our usual means (coming to appointments, phone, or email). It may become necessary to check search engines as part of ensuring your welfare. Should this ever occur, I will document it in your clinical record and discuss it with you at your next session. If you should use search engines to seek information about me, I recommend that you discuss any concerns that you may have about me at our very next session.

Social Media Sites

I do not follow current patients or former patients on Twitter, blogs, YouTube, or other social media sites. Doing so may negatively influence our therapeutic relationship. If there is content you wish to share with me from your online site, you may bring it to our next session for discussion.

Location-Based Services

There are privacy concerns related to location-based services on a mobile phone. If you have GPS tracking or a location-based device on your mobile phone, it may compromise your privacy and provide a clue that you are a therapy patient due to your regular check-ins.

Practice Website and Business Review Sites

My practice has a professional website which is used solely for professional matters regarding our practice. I will not reveal any information about you on this professional site nor will I have an online relationship with you on the professional site.

You may also find my private practice on sites such as Yelp, Healthgrades, Yahoo Local, Bing, or other places which list businesses. Some of these sites include forums in which users rate their providers and add reviews. Many of these sites comb search engines for business listings and automatically add listings regardless of whether the business has added itself to the site. If you should find my listing on any of these sites, please know that my listing is NOT a request for a testimonial, rating, or endorsement from you as my client. Of course, you have a right to express yourself on any site you wish but due to confidentiality, I cannot respond to any review on any of these sites whether it is positive or negative.

I urge you to take your own privacy as seriously as I take my commitment of confidentiality to you. You should also be aware that if you are using these sites to communicate indirectly with me about your feelings about our work, there is a good possibility that I may never see it. If we are working together, I hope that you will bring your feelings and reactions to our work directly into the therapy process. This can be an important part of therapy, even if you decide we are not a good fit. None of this is meant to keep you from sharing that you are in therapy with me wherever and with whomever you like.

Confidentiality means that I cannot tell people that you are my client and my Ethics Code prohibits me

from requesting testimonials. But you are more than welcome to tell anyone you wish that I'm your therapist or how you feel about the treatment I provided to you, in any forum of your choosing.

If you do choose to write something on a business review site, I hope you will keep in mind that you may be sharing personally revealing information in a public forum. I urge you to create a pseudonym that is not linked to your regular email address or friend networks for your own privacy and protection. If you feel I have done something harmful or unethical and you do not feel comfortable discussing it with me, you can always contact the Rhode Island Department of Health, which oversees licensing, at 401-222-5200 and they will review the services I have provided.

As new technology develops and the Internet changes, there may be times when I need to update this policy. If I do so, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy. If you have questions or concerns about any of these policies and procedures or regarding our potential interactions on the Internet or via Smartphone, please bring them to my attention so that we can discuss them.

Name (Print)

Date

Name (Signature)