

# **MLB Therapy, PLLC**

Michelle Bogdan, LCSW

120 East Market Street, Unit 2; Leesburg, VA 20176

(703) 554-2882; (f) (703) 443-0600

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## **TELEMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENT & INFORMED CONSENT**

1. MLB Therapy, PLLC utilizes doxy.me as well as Microsoft Teams as the platforms to conduct Telemental Health Services. Both are HIPAA compliant. Any personal information you choose to share with me will be held in the strictest confidence. Just as for my face-to-face sessions, I will not release your information to anyone without your prior written approval, or I am required to do so by law. Please refer to the HIPPA Notice of Privacy Practices you received for details.
2. You understand that our Telemental Health Services must occur in the states of Virginia, West Virginia or New York and is governed by the laws of that state. My licensure and malpractice insurance only allows for my clinical/Telemental health services to be provided in the states in which I am licensed, which is the three identified.
3. In the unlikely event I become convinced our Telemental Health services is not in your best interests (see below), I will suggest alternative options more appropriate for your needs.
4. While Telemental Health Services is a great way to access mental health services, overwhelming or potentially dangerous challenges are best met with face-to-face professional support. You understand that our Telemental Health Services is neither a substitute, nor the same as, face-to-face psychotherapy treatment. You accept the distinctions made using Telemental Health Services vs. face-to-face psychotherapy. In particular, you accept that Telemental Health Services does not provide emergency services.
5. You are responsible for information security on your computer. If you decide to keep copies of our emails or communication on your computer, it's up to you to keep that information secure. I do, however strongly advise against this. Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee the security of our emails as they travel between our computers, however the chosen platforms for Telemental Health are encrypted, therefore confidential. It is possible, though unlikely, to intercept emails in transit. If you are concerned about that possibility, please consider the option to encrypt our emails. Even if someone were to intercept an encrypted e-mail or other form of communication, they would not be able to read the encoded message.
6. Our Telemental Health Services is a means by which you, the e-client, can receive therapeutic counseling services and information from a licensed therapist. The risks involved with Telemental Health include the potential release of private information due to the complexities and abnormalities involved with the Internet. Viruses, Trojans, and other involuntary intrusions have the ability to grab and released information you may desire to keep private.
7. You agree to participate in Telemental Health services in the State of Virginia, West Virginia or New York States, as well as within your home, and away from anyone being within earshot, or able to hear our conversation. There is a risk of being overheard by someone nearby if you are not in a private area and are accessible to other's intrusion.

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8. It is YOUR responsibility to create an environment on your end of the Telemental Health Services that is not subject to unexpected or unauthorized intrusion of your personal information. It is MY responsibility for me, the therapist, to do the same on my end.
9. You understand that payment for Telemental Health Services is the same as face-to-face services in that payment is due prior to the start of the session. MLB Therapy, PLLC will continue to use the HIPAA compliant clearinghouse of Office Ally as with face-to-face visits. I, Michelle Bogdan, LCSW, will charge your credit card on file at the start of each visit. An itemized receipt can be mailed to you at your request.
10. As with all services provided by MLB Therapy, PLLC, insurances will not be billed for Telemental Health Services. A receipt can be provided so that you can submit claims to your respective insurance company. Any coverage by your insurance company is between you and your respective insurance company.
11. Clients who reside outside of the state of Virginia and the state of professional licensure, there is an important issue that should be understood by clients before Telemental Health Services begin.: By participating in Telemental Health Services, you, the client, agree that the “point-of-service” for Telemental Health is to occur in the therapist’s state of licensure (VA, WV, NY), not your, the client’s, state of residence/location. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I am accountable to and agree to abide by the ethical and legal guidelines put forth by my states of licensure, which is the reason for these stipulations.

**I have read and understand the information provided above. By signing below, you acknowledge your understanding of the above written information and are in agreement with the terms and therein.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Client Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian/Legal Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness/MLB Therapy, PLLC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date