# 142 Enchanted Parkway Suite 100C Manchester, MO 63021 . 314-403-2074 . www.arttherapyforhealing.com

#### **HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices**

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. **Please review it carefully.** 

#### Your Rights: You have the right to:

- Get a copy of your paper or electronic medical record
- Correct your paper or electronic medical records
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information
- Get a copy of this privacy notice
- Choose someone to act on your behalf
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

#### Your Choices: You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Tell family and friends about your condition
- Provide disaster relief
- Include you in a hospital directory
- Provide mental health care
- Market our services and sell your information
- Raise funds

#### Our Uses and Disclosures: We may use and share your information as we:

- Treat you
- Run our organization
- Bill for your services
- Help with public health and safety issues
- Do research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests
- Work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

#### **Your Rights**

When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights. This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

#### Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record

In general, you have the right to see your PHI that is in my possession, or to get copies of it; however, you must request it in writing. If I do not have your PHI, but I know who does, I will advise you how you can get it. You will receive a response from me within 30 days of my receiving your written request. We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee. Under certain circumstances, I may feel I must deny your request, but if I do I will give you, in writing, the reasons for the denial. I will also explain your right to have our denial reviewed.

# Ask us to correct your medical record

If you believe that there is some error in your PHI or that important information has been omitted, it is your right to request that I correct the existing information or add the missing information. Your request and the reason for the request must be made in writing. You will receive a response within 60 days of my receipt of your request. I may deny your request, in writing, if I find that the PHI is (a) correct and complete, (b) forbidden to be disclosed, (c) not part of my records, or (d) written by someone other than myself. My denial must be in writing and must state the reasons for the denial. It must also explain your right to file a written statement objecting to the denial. If you do not file a written objection, you still have the right to ask that your request and the denial be attached to any future disclosures of your PHI. If I approve your request, I will make the change(s) to your PHI. Additionally, I will tell you that the changes have been made, and I will advise all others who need to know about the change(s) to your PHI.

# Request confidential communications

You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address. We will say "yes" to all reasonable requests.

#### Ask us to limit what we use or share

You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment, or our operations. We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say "no" if it would affect your care. If you pay for a service or health care item out-of-pocket in full, you

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can ask us not to share that information for the purpose of payment or our operations with your health insurer. We will say "yes" unless a law requires us to share that information.

### Get a list of those with whom we've shared information

You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we've shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why. We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We'll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

#### Get a copy of this privacy notice

You can ask for a paper or electronic copy of this notice at any time.

#### Choose someone to act on your behalf

If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information. We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

# File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on page 1. You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting <u>www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/</u>. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

#### **Your Choices**

**For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share.** If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions. In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in your care
- Share information in a disaster relief situation
- Include your information in a hospital directory

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.

In these cases we never share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information
- Most sharing of psychotherapy notes

# **Our Uses and Disclosures**

#### How do we typically use or share your health information?

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

# Treat you

We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you. For example, I may use PHI to diagnose and provide counseling service to you. I may also disclose your information in order to remind you of appointment times. I may disclose your information to any family members or significant others that you voluntarily decide to bring to and include in a therapy session. I may disclose your PHI, with the exception of identifying information, during professional clinical supervision and/or consultation, in order to ethically provide you the highest quality services.

#### Run our organization

We can use and share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary. Your consent is not required if you need emergency treatment, provided that I attempt to get your consent after treatment is rendered. In the event that I try to get your consent, but you are unable to communicate with me (for example, if you are unconscious or in severe pain) and I think that you would consent to such treatment if you could I may disclose your PHI. We can also use PHI to provide appointment reminders. I may use PHI to give you information about alternative treatment options or other health care services or benefits I offer.

#### **Bill for your services**

We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities. For example, I might send your PHI to your insurance company or health plan in order to get payment for the health care services that I have provided to you. I could also provide your PHI to business associates, such as billing companies, claims processing companies, and others that process health care claims for my office.

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#### How else can we use or share your health information?

We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information see: <a href="https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html">www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html</a>.

### To avoid harm

I may provide PHI to law enforcement personnel or persons able to prevent or mitigate a serious threat to the health or safety of a person or the public (i.e., adverse reaction to meds). If disclosure is compelled or permitted by the fact that you are in such mental or emotional condition as to be dangerous to yourself or the person or property of others, and if I determine that disclosure is necessary to prevent the threatened danger. If disclosure is compelled or permitted by the fact that you tell me of a serious/ imminent threat of physical violence by you against a reasonably identifiable victim or victims.

#### Do research

In certain circumstances, I may provide PHI in order to conduct medical and psychological research.

#### Comply with the law

We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law. When disclosure is required by federal, state, or local law; judicial, board, or administrative proceedings; or law enforcement. For example, I may make a disclosure to the appropriate officials when a law requires me to report information to government agencies, law enforcement personnel, and/or in an administrative proceeding. If disclosure is compelled by a party to a proceeding before a court of an administrative agency pursuant to its lawful authority. If disclosure is required by a search warrant lawfully issued to a governmental law enforcement agency.

# Report suspected abuse or neglect

**If disclosure is mandated by the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law.** For example, if I have a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect. **If disclosure is mandated by the Missouri Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting Law.** For example, if I have a reasonable suspicion of elder abuse or dependent adult abuse.

#### Respond to organ and tissue donation requests

We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.

# Work with a medical examiner or funeral director

We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

# Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests

We can use or share health information about you:

- For workers' compensation claims
- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
- For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services

#### Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

# **Our Responsibilities**

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
- We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html.

# Changes to the Terms of this Notice

We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request, in our office, and on our web site.

# **Other Instructions for Notice**

• Effective Date January 1, 2016

Privacy Official: Rosemary Barnes Pratt, LPC ATCS, <u>www.arttherapyforhealing.com</u>; 142 Enchanted Parkway Suite 100C MO 63021; (314) 403-2074

- We never market or sell personal information.
- We will never share any treatment records without your written permission unless required to do so by law.
- We will request your permission to display your artwork in office or at other venues. Your identifying information will be covered up to protect your privacy.

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- We do not do fundraising
- This notice applies to Art Therapy for Healing, LLC for art therapy and counseling services.