
LINDSAY SORENSEN, M.S., LPC, LCDC

855 Texas Street • Fort Worth, Texas 76102 • (817) 714-5226 • counseling@lindsaysorensen.com

PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR STC-REFERRED CLIENTS

My Credentials

I am licensed to practice independently and without restrictions in the state of Texas. My credentials are:

- Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Tarleton State University
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Texas Christian University
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC)
- EMDRIA-approved provider of EMDR therapy
- Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS)
- Nationally Certified Pharmacy Technician

Counseling Purposes, Goals, and Risks

The purpose of counseling is to enhance your personal growth and your ability to cope with life's problems. By helping clients learn to identify, evaluate, and change unhealthy thinking patterns, therapeutic changes in mood and behavior can occur. I am trained in a variety of counseling approaches, including client-centered, cognitive-behavioral, and EMDR, among others. Your specific goals will be discussed in session, and a treatment plan will be developed. While benefits are expected from counseling, progress may vary and is not guaranteed, as it is often dependent upon a variety of factors, including support systems, clients' readiness to address certain concerns and/or follow through with between-session assignments. The risks associated with counseling include discomfort related to making changes, or talking about difficult memories or concerns.

Confidentiality

I am required to keep confidential the fact that you are my client and anything that happens in your counseling sessions. Stay The Course (STC) will maintain a copy of your complete record as well, and will therefore have access to your information. If you give me written permission to exchange information with another person or agency (other than STC), then I may do so. A few situations create exceptions to the standard of confidentiality, including:

- Neglect/abuse of a child, vulnerable adult, or animal
- Imminent risk of suicide or homicide or physical harm to another
- A court order from a judge

Counseling Minor Clients

Please be aware that if you are bringing a minor for counseling or evaluation, you must have the legal (custodial) right to do so. If you do not have custody, you must let me know so that the appropriate consent for treatment may be obtained.

Just as with adults, most teens find it easier to talk openly about their lives when they feel safe and confident that their discussions will be kept confidential. Because it is often in the best interest of having a trusting therapeutic relationship with the child, I ask that you allow me to use clinical discretion when determining what to report to you. If I believe your child is at risk of harming him or herself or someone else, you will be notified right away and I will work closely with you to ensure your child's safety. If your child divulges any abuse or neglect has taken place, I will be required to notify the appropriate authorities. In almost all other

circumstances, however, it is most beneficial to your child's progress for you to allow me to maintain his or her confidentiality. Please discuss with me prior to the first session any concerns you have about this.

If your adolescent or adult child arrives for their session unaccompanied by an adult/guarantor, it will be assumed he or she has the authority to schedule the next appointment, for which the guarantor is responsible.

❖INITIAL_____

Plan for Records

I will keep your records for 5 years after therapy ends. In the event of my death or incapacity, or the termination of my counseling practice, all records will be transferred to Tempa Sherrill, LPC. Stay The Course will have a copy of your complete record as well.

Fees and Cancellations

Fees

Any required fees associated with your sessions will be arranged through Stay The Course. They should provide this information during your intake process, but if you have further questions, please call their main number for assistance. Any necessary payments will be made directly to them. Please also note Stay The Course's cancellation policy below.

Cancellations

No-shows or sessions cancelled within 24 hours prior to the scheduled appointment time will be subject to a charge determined by Stay The Course. The amount of this fee is posted in the waiting area, and may be billed to your on-file credit card, as determined by STC management. In the case of an excessive number of cancellations, STC management may impose fees, restrictions, or withdrawal from the program.

❖INITIAL_____

Between-Session Communication with Counselor

Please keep in mind I operate my private practice and contract work for Stay The Course on a part-time basis only. I also maintain a full-time position with another agency. Because of this, most days I am unable to be reached by phone before 5:00pm. Please leave a message at (817) 714-5226, or send an email, and I will respond as soon as I am able. You may also contact STC directly, but please note that they, too, may be unable to reach me during normal business hours.

Mental Health Crisis/ Emergency Availability

I do not provide 24-hour coverage. If you are in a mental health crisis situation or other emergency scenario, please call 911. You may call me at (817) 714-5226, but please understand I cannot guarantee an immediate response. You are responsible for getting your crisis needs met without my assistance if necessary.

CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION

Your signature below indicates that you have read, understood, and agree to the above policies. This signature also demonstrates that you have the legal authority to consent to treatment (i.e. are either above the age of 18, or are the legal/custodial parent if the client is a minor).

❖ _____
Client Signature (or Parent/Guardian if Client is a Minor)

Date

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NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES FOR STC-REFERRED CLIENTS

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. It also serves to obtain your consent for policies and procedures. Please review it carefully.

Effective November 1, 2015:

Lindsay Sorensen Counseling, PLLC is required by The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) to provide confidentiality for all Protected Health Information in our possession. Information is only released in accordance with state and federal laws and the ethics of the counseling profession. This Notice is to inform you of the uses and disclosures of information that may be made by the practice, and the practice's legal duties with respect to confidential information.

Use and disclosure of protected health information for the purposes of providing services:

Providing treatment services, collecting payment and conducting healthcare operations are necessary activities for quality care. State and federal laws allow us to use and disclose your health information for these purposes only:

- **Treatment:** providing, coordinating, or managing mental healthcare and related services with Stay The Course or others. For example, use or disclosure in the process of giving or receiving a referral for services.
- **Payment:** activities such as obtaining payment for the mental healthcare services provided. For example, processing your form of payment (i.e. check or credit card).
- **Healthcare Operations:** the business aspects of running the practice. For example, to evaluate our treatment and services while caring for you.
- **Other Uses and Disclosures without your consent:** as listed below.

Uses and Disclosures with Neither Consent nor Authorization:

Lindsay Sorensen Counseling, PLLC may use or disclose your mental health information without your consent or authorization in the following circumstances:

- **Abuse:** If we have reason to believe that a minor child, elderly person or person with a disability has been abused, abandoned, or neglected, we must report this concern to the appropriate authorities.
- **Health Oversight Activities:** If the State Board is investigating a clinician that you have filed a formal complaint against, we may be required to disclose protected health information regarding your case.
- **Judicial and Administrative Proceedings as Required:** If you are involved in a court proceeding and a court subpoenas information about the services provided to you and/or the records thereof; we may be compelled to provide the information. Although courts have recognized a clinician-client privilege, there may be circumstances in which a court would order the clinic to disclose personal health or treatment information.
- **Professional Harm:** If you disclose sexual contact with another mental health professional with which you have had a professional relationship, we are required to report this violation to the licensing board. You have the right to anonymity in the filing of the report.
- **Serious Threat To Health or Safety:** If you communicate an explicit threat of imminent serious physical harm to yourself or others and we believe you may act on that threat, we have a legal duty to take the appropriate measures, including disclosing information to the police. In both cases, we will disclose only what we feel is the minimal amount of information necessary.
- **National Security:** We may be required to disclose personal information to military or federal authorities in instances where national security is concerned.

Please sign to indicate you understand our operational use of your information for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations as stated above.



Client Signature (Or Parent/Guardian if client is a minor)

Date

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INFORMED CONSENT FOR STC-REFERRED CLIENTS

AND CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF:

- I) *PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT*
- II) *NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES*

By your signature below, you are indicating 1) that you have received copies of Lindsay's *Professional Disclosure Statement* and the *Notice of Privacy Practices*; 2) that you voluntarily agree to receive mental health assessment and mental health care, treatment, or services, and that you authorize Lindsay to provide such services as considered necessary and advisable; 3) that you understand and agree that you will participate in the planning of your care, treatment, or services, and that you may at any time stop such services received through Lindsay; 4) that you have read and understood this statement and have had ample opportunity to ask questions about, and seek clarification of, anything that is unclear to you.

Release for Liability and Hold Harmless Provision: By signing this document, you are releasing Lindsay Sorensen Counseling, PLLC, and holding the practice harmless, from any personal liability that arises from departure from your right of confidentiality, as outlined in Lindsay's *Professional Disclosure Statement* and the *Notice of Privacy Practices*.

By my signature, I verify the accuracy of the *Notice of Privacy Practices*, the *Informed Consent* and my counselor's *Professional Disclosure Statement*, and I commit to conform to their specifications.



Client's Signature

Date

If the client is a minor, please sign above as well as below.

The legal guardian(s)/managing conservator(s) must sign the statement below:

If your conservatorship/guardianship is established by a divorce decree or custody document, you are required to provide a photocopy of the cause page (first page calling out the case), the page specifying conservator(s), and the signature page from the decree or document, before clinical services can begin. With your signature(s) below, you affirm that you are the legal guardian(s)/managing conservator(s) of _____ (minor's name). With an understanding of the above requirements, you grant permission for your child to participate in counseling and release the counselor from liability for same, as stated in the Release from Liability and Hold Harmless provision above.

Legal Guardian #1 Signature

Date

Legal Guardian #2 Signature

Date

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E-MAIL AND TEXT MESSAGING INFORMED CONSENT

In order to communicate with you via e-mail or text message, Lindsay Sorensen Counseling, PLLC needs to ensure you are aware of the confidentiality and other issues that arise when communicating this way. This form is intended to document your understanding of these issues, and by signing, you are stating that you accept and agree to the following:

I understand that all e-mail messages are sent over the Internet, are not secure, and may be read by others. I understand that my e-mail communications with Lindsay will NOT be encrypted, and therefore Lindsay CANNOT guarantee the confidentiality or security of any information I send to her or that she sends to me via e-mail. I understand that text messages are no more secure than e-mail, and the same conditions apply.

I understand that for this reason Lindsay advises me not to send sensitive information via e-mail or text message. This includes information about current or past symptoms, conditions, or treatment, as well as identifying information such as social security numbers or credit card information.

I hereby give permission for Lindsay to reply to my messages via e-mail, including with any information that she deems appropriate, that would otherwise be considered confidential. I agree that Lindsay Sorensen Counseling, PLLC shall not be liable for any breach of confidentiality that may result from this use of e-mail via the Internet.

I understand that Lindsay will limit text messages to brief inquiries or responses regarding scheduling.

I understand that Lindsay may at times e-mail me information about resources that I can use as part of my treatment. I hereby consent to receive such information via e-mail.

I understand that e-mail and text message communication should not be used for urgent or sensitive matters since technical or other factors may prevent a timely answer. I understand that if I use email or text messages to make or request scheduling changes, it is my responsibility to confirm that Lindsay has received my communication more than 24 hours before the appointment time that is being changed. If I believe I need a response within 48 hours, I will not use e-mail, but will instead call Lindsay by telephone. If I do not receive an answer to a routine e-mail or text message within two business days, I understand that I should call Lindsay by telephone.

I understand that all e-mail and text message communications may be made part of my permanent medical record, and would be accessible to anyone given access to those records. I also understand that I may withdraw permission for Lindsay to communicate with me via e-mail or text message by notifying her in writing.



Client Signature (or Parent/Guardian if Client is a Minor)

Date