

Dr. Christina Morris

Licensed Psychologist, PSY 26803

Professional Corporation (P.C.)

Compassionate psychotherapy for children, teens, and families

Consent for Treatment and Private Contract for Services: *Psychotherapy and Psychological Services*

Welcome to the practice of Dr. Christina Morris. Dr. Morris is a licensed psychologist (PSY26803) who provides psychotherapy to children, adolescents, adults and families. She helps clients to recognize their emotions, express them in a healthy way and adapt to challenges in their lives. The goals of psychotherapy include improved relationships, increased ability to manage emotions, enhanced enjoyment of life and improved ability to achieve goals. A risk of psychotherapy is that it may involve discussing unpleasant thoughts and feelings.

Dr. Morris works as a sole proprietor, and her principal place of business is 4 Main Street, Suite 110, Los Altos, California 94022. Although she leases space from The Pratt Center, she has no other legal affiliation with The Pratt Center. In this document, the term “client” refers to the undersigned individual who is receiving psychological services, a parent or a legal guardian, a Medicare beneficiary or a legal representative, as applicable.

Emergencies and After-Hours

Dr. Morris provides services to individuals and families who are stable enough to be treated safely in an outpatient setting. She does not provide 24 hour on call crisis coverage. She attempts to return calls and emails quickly; however, she may not respond until her next scheduled work day. If there is a client crisis that cannot safely wait for a return call, please call 911 or go to the nearest hospital.

Fees for Psychotherapy

Psychotherapy for a 50-minute session is \$230. Dr. Morris accepts: (1) cash, (2) checks payable to Dr. Christina Morris, Licensed Psych, P.C. or (3) PayPal payments. Payment is due at the time of service, and prepayments may be made by PayPal. Fees may generally adjust for inflation annually. Missed appointments and appointments not cancelled with 48 hours advanced notice are billed at the full hourly rate. Dr. Morris reserves the right to assign billings to collection agencies if accounts are more than ninety days past due. The client is responsible for legal fees and other costs related to the collection of outstanding accounts. The client has the right at any time to terminate services. Likewise, consistent with applicable legal and ethical standards,

Dr. Morris reserves the right to terminate the provision of services. In either case, she will refer the client to other providers if appropriate. Upon termination of services, all fees incurred prior to termination will be fully payable, and any unused pre-paid money will be refunded to the client.

Insurance Policies

Dr. Morris does not accept insurance, and she will not call, write or fax insurance companies. Rather, she provides information to the client that the client may forward to an insurance company, such as an itemized invoice. She provides one monthly invoice per client, and she does not divide invoices when there are two households.

The client must request this information from Dr. Morris directly as Dr. Morris will not respond to requests from insurance companies.

Insurance companies set the rules for reimbursement, and Dr. Morris cannot provide any assurance that services will be covered by insurance. Dr. Morris is not on any provider panels, and Dr. Morris will not enter into contracts with insurance companies, including single-case agreements. Dr. Morris will not delete, include or alter any information on an invoice in order to qualify for or increase reimbursement. Insurance companies will only reimburse if they deem that the services are medically necessary; for instance, insurance companies generally do not reimburse for educational services, school meetings, or legal proceedings. They also may not reimburse for telephone calls, report writing, emails, travel time and other services.

No Surprises Act

Effective January 1st, 2022, Dr. Morris can provide a good faith estimate for services upon request. Clients can estimate the total cost of services by multiplying the number of visits with the session fee (\$230). Please note that the fee for testimony is a different rate than the session fee, as noted in the Testimony section below. Fees for phone calls, report writing, and other services are billed by the half hour at \$115 and hour at \$230.

Medicare Private Contract for Services

Dr. Morris has never participated in the Medicare program, and the undersigned client hereby agrees to forego reimbursement from Medicare for all past, present and future services provided by Dr. Morris. The terms and provisions of this Medicare Private Contract apply to a client who is eligible for Medicare or who becomes eligible during the period in which the client receives services with Dr. Morris.

This private contract for services is between Dr. Morris and the client (Medicare beneficiary or legal representative). The client resides at the address listed below and is a Medicare Part B beneficiary seeking services covered under Medicare Part B

pursuant to Section 4507 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Dr. Morris has informed the client that Dr. Morris has opted out of the Medicare program. Dr. Morris is not excluded from participating in Medicare Part B under Sections 1128, 1156, 1892, or any other section of the Social Security Act. The client agrees, understands and expressly acknowledges the following:

1. The client accepts full responsibility for payment of Dr. Morris's charges for all services furnished by Dr. Morris and acknowledges that clinician will not submit a Medicare claim for services.
2. The client understands that Medicare limits do not apply to what Dr. Morris may charge for items or services furnished by Dr. Morris.
3. The client agrees not to submit a claim to Medicare or to ask Dr. Morris to submit a claim to Medicare.
4. The client understands that Medicare payment will not be made for any items or services furnished by Dr. Morris that would have otherwise been covered by Medicare if there was no private contract and a proper Medicare claim had been submitted.
5. The client enters into this contract with the knowledge that he or she has the right to obtain Medicare-covered items and services from clinicians and practitioners who have not opted out of Medicare, and the client is not compelled to enter into private contracts that apply to other Medicare-covered services furnished by other clinicians or practitioners who have not opted out.
6. The client understands that Medi-Gap plans do not, and that other supplemental plans may elect not to, make payments for items and services not paid for by Medicare.
7. The client acknowledges that he or she is not currently in an emergency or urgent health care situation.
8. The client acknowledges that a copy of this contract has been provided to him or her.
9. This private contract for services shall be made available to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) upon request.

Professional Standards

Dr. Morris complies with laws and regulations applicable to licensed psychologists, including those of the Board of Psychology. Dr. Morris follows ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association. If there is a concern with services, please speak

to Dr. Morris. She attempts to resolve matters directly, but the client has the right to contact the California Board of Psychology at (916) 574-7720.

Confidentiality, Privilege, Technology and Medical Records

Dr. Morris is not a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) because she does not bill insurance companies electronically. Policies in Dr. Morris's practice provide the client with a higher level of privacy than the HIPAA law requires.

Information shared with Dr. Morris is generally confidential and may be legally privileged; however, there are other exceptions to confidentiality that are allowed or mandated by law. These exceptions include, but are not limited to: suspected abuse of a child, elder or dependent adult; danger to self or others; grave disability; childhood victim of a crime; legal proceedings by court order (e.g., child custody, civil lawsuits, due process hearings); investigation of criminal cases by law enforcement officials; malpractice lawsuits;

Medicare audit, ethics complaints or licensing complaints. There is generally no privilege in a legal case in which the client's mental status is at issue, such as disability determination. If an exception to confidentiality appears to apply, Dr. Morris will inform the client.

If Dr. Morris determines that there is a probability of imminent physical injury by the client to himself or herself, or there is a probability of immediate mental or emotional injury to the client, Dr. Morris may disclose relevant confidential mental health information to medical or law enforcement personnel.

Even with appropriate security, use of computers and the internet entail risks. Electronic forms of communication (e.g., MP3 recordings, fax, email, cell phone, voicemail, text messages, online scheduling, Paypal, etc.) have risks that may compromise confidentiality.

If a client opts to use social media in connection with Dr. Morris, material may not be confidential. Twitter follows, Facebook likes, Google+ circles, LinkedIn Connections, Yelp reviews and other online activities are generally not confidential.

Dr. Morris is the owner of all materials used and/or created in providing services to clients. Materials may include paper charts, files, testing protocols, Consent for Treatment forms, letters and other documents. Materials also includes digital records such as emails, faxes, PowerPoint presentations, MP3 files, voicemails, databases and other digital records. Dr. Morris stores all materials securely.

Medical records are generally available to clients, parents of minors or legal guardians, as applicable, unless a law, regulation or court provides otherwise. In some cases, records may be withheld to protect the safety of the client.

Appointment of Authorized Recipient for Health Care Disclosure

The undersigned acknowledges that for the purposes of preparation of invoices for potential insurance reimbursement, it is crucial that Dr. Morris release or disclose a client's protected medical information to the preparer of such invoices. Accordingly, the undersigned client hereby appoints Tracy Hoe, or any successor bookkeeper designated by Dr. Morris, as an Authorized Recipient (hereafter, "Authorized Recipient") for health care disclosure under the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Care Information (45 CFR Parts 160 and 164) under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), and as that term is defined by California Civil Code §56.05(b), for the purposes of receiving reports and/or records concerning the undersigned's medical and psychiatric history, condition, diagnosis, testing, prognosis, treatment, billing information and identity of health care providers, as well as any other protected medical information pertinent to obtaining potential insurance reimbursement. The undersigned moreover authorizes Dr. Morris to use, release and disclose its individually identifiable health information to such Authorized Recipient in accordance with and as authorized by 45 CFR Sec(s). 164.502(a)(1)(i) and (iv), 164.502(a)(2)(i), 164.524 and 164.528 and California Civil Code Section 56 Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA), including, specifically, any information related to potentially obtaining insurance reimbursement. The undersigned hereby releases Dr. Morris, the Authorized Recipient, or any covered entity that acts in reliance on this Authorization from any liability that may accrue from the use, release or disclosure of the undersigned's protected medical information.

Supervision of Minors

If the client has not yet attained the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian is responsible for ensuring the client's safety whenever the client is not in session with Dr. Morris.

A parent or legal guardian should remain in the waiting room throughout the session. Dr. Morris does not assume responsibility for supervising the client before the session, during breaks or after the session. Dr. Morris does not supervise the client in the waiting room, hallways, stairways, elevator, restrooms, sidewalks or parking areas. A parent or legal guardian may determine that the client is sufficiently old and responsible to be left unsupervised; however, the parent or legal guardian assumes responsibility for the client's safety and must remain immediately reachable by cell

phone if he or she elects to leave the building. **For parent meetings, children may not remain in the waiting room, unless approved by Dr. Morris.**

Testimony

The client may request Dr. Morris's testimony at a legal proceeding (e.g., due process, custody, civil, criminal, depositions, interrogatories, asserting privilege, etc.). The testimony is billed at \$600 per 60-minute hour. There is a four-hour minimum charge as Dr. Morris is required to block out time to appear at a hearing, even if Dr. Morris is not called to testify.

If Dr. Morris appears at a hearing for any issue related to the client, the client is responsible for payment of these fees. The client is responsible for payment, regardless of the testimony provided or the outcome of the case. Cases will not be taken on a contingency fee basis. The client agrees that Dr. Morris may speak openly with the client's attorney about all matters and will comply with court orders. During attorney consultations and testimony, Dr. Morris's professional opinion will be provided in a candid manner, regardless of whether it supports the client's case.

Consent for Treatment

The undersigned hereby assumes all obligations set forth in this Consent for Treatment of "client", "parent(s)", "legal guardian(s)", "beneficiary" and/or "legal representative, as applicable.

I understand and agree to abide by all policies described herein. I have read the entirety of this Consent for Treatment form, and I have had the opportunity to ask any questions. I attest that I have the legal right to give consent for medical treatment of the client.

I have read, understood and agreed to the above policies and fees; by signing below, I give my consent for treatment for the client.

Information about Clients

Name of Client: _____ Client Date of Birth: _____

Adult Client

Parent(s) or Legal Guardian

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

If you are not the client, indicate your relationship to the client below (e.g., mother, father, guardian, legal representative, etc.): _____

Signature of Dr. Morris

Date