

**Debra K. Burton, PhD, LPC, LMFT
Licensed Professional Counselor
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist**

Informed Consent for Tele-Counseling services

Due to the Emergency rule for telehealth services adopted on March 17th, to reduce barriers for accessing services as a result of Corona Virus pandemic, I am offering counseling sessions through tele-counseling services. Tele-counseling services include using the telephone or interactive tele-video conferencing technologies for individual, marriage, and family counseling.

I have a HIPAA compliant platform, SecureVideo, that uses ZOOM Cloud Meetings on Smartphones and Zoom Videoconferencing on computers. ZOOM is a free service. I will send a text or email that will contain a link for your scheduled appointment. I will also email instructions on how to use the SecureVideo.

During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is allowing counselors to serve clients through everyday communications technologies. This means I can use widely available communications apps, such as FaceTime, Skype, Google Meeting, and Zoom.

I will contact you before your first session and give you an option for your tele-counseling services, including counseling by phone. You will want to choose a location that will protect your privacy with minimal distractions.

There are Benefits with Tele-Counseling:

- Ability to receive Counseling at times or in places where this service may not otherwise be available**
- Ability to receive Counseling services when you are unable to travel to the office and attend a face-to-face session**
- Ability to have Counseling sessions in a manner that is more convenient and easier to manage.**

There are a few possible issues that can occur with Tele-Counseling: Internet connections and cloud services can have problems and interfere with communication (*if a session is experiencing signal problems, we can communicate by phone for the remainder of the session if needed*). Non-HIPAA

