

# **Bruce A. Dodson, LPC**

## **Confidentiality and Mandatory Disclosure**

Counseling sometimes involves sharing sensitive and personal information. In recognition of this, ethical guidelines, as well as the statutory laws of Arkansas, require that all interactions between a client and myself remain confidential. This includes your records, content of your sessions and our appointment schedule. I will take the utmost care to protect your privacy and confidentiality.

### **Exceptions to Confidentiality**

The vast majority of clients, no exceptions to confidentiality are made. But confidentiality is not absolute. The following is a list of the only exceptions in which I would disclose information regarding a client.

1. If a client requests in writing that information about their counseling be released and shared with a specific individual(s). A “Release of Information” form must be completed and signed by the client before this communication can take place. The client can specify what information can (and cannot) be released. These forms are available at my office.
2. If a client poses clear and imminent danger to themselves or to others, a mental health professional is legally required to report this to the proper authorities for the protection of the individual and the community.
3. If a client discloses that physical or sexual abuse or neglect has occurred to:
  - a. a person who is under 18 years of age,
  - b. an elderly person, or
  - c. mentally incompetent person,

the counselor is required by Arkansas law (“counselors are considered mandated reporters”) to report this information to the proper authorities.

The above information describes the limits of professional confidentiality in an individual and/or group session. By signing below, you are saying:

I attest that I have read this information form and the Privacy Practices information form, and that I understand the information and the conditions stated in both, and I agree to receive counseling under these conditions.

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Signature of client or legal guardian

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Date

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Please print your name here

