



Informed Consent for In-Person Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic & Public Health Crisis

Effective May 1, 2021

To our valued clients,

We have appreciated everyone's understanding and willingness over the last several months to conduct all sessions via telehealth, or to have postponed your visits until things with the COVID-19 pandemic and public health crisis settled down. At this time, Hawaii has a low rate of cases, and as a result, much of the state has reopened. We appreciate your patience as we have taken longer to reopen the Paradigm office, and believe we can now effectively and safely re-open the office for face-to-face sessions. This document contains important information concerning the resuming of in-person sessions in light of the pandemic. Please read the following guidelines carefully and let us know if you have any questions. All questions and concerns may be directed to Keri Lim at 808-387-4355 or by emailing paradigmhawaii@gmail.com. Your required initials and signature to this document will serve as an official agreement between us. Mahalo!

The Decision to Meet Face-to-Face

Counselor and client have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, your counselor may require that sessions are conducted via telehealth, with less than 24-hours notice. If after reading our telehealth consent form, you still have concerns about meeting through telehealth, please let us know and we will discuss those concerns and address any issues. Please understand that, if necessary, your counselor may determine that telehealth is what is safest for everyone's well-being.

Our staff is committed to doing all we can to protect you and your families from exposure to COVID-19. While we have taken the following precautions, we cannot guarantee that you will be 100% safe and do encourage everyone to consider **continuing telehealth until a vaccine is found**. If unintended exposure to COVID-10 results in sickness, client agrees to not hold Paradigm Hawaii Counseling, Inc. liable. To keep everyone safe, we have removed all chairs, magazines and coffee service from the waiting area. As supplies are available, we will keep hand sanitizer in each office for your use. We will also disinfect each office after each session by wiping down all hard surfaces, spraying the furniture and keeping the space adequately ventilated. All counselors will wear masks the entire time they are with you, no exceptions. We will also make sure that we wash our hands frequently and will refrain from handshakes or hugs. Bathroom keys have also been removed and we ask that you use the bathroom on the first floor which does not require a key. We apologize for the inconvenience this will cause and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

By initialing here, you understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of possible exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if you have continued to work on-site at your places of work, travel by bus, Uber, Lyft, or other ride sharing services. To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting/resuming to a telehealth arrangement. Please initial each of the following precautions to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions. Please also keep in mind that some of these precautions will be on an honor system, and we do ask that you do your utmost to follow the guidelines. Thank you for your honesty, understanding and cooperation.

- Client will keep their in-person appointment only if they are symptom free. _____
- Client will take their temperature before coming to each appointment. If temperature is 100 degrees or more, or if other symptoms are present such as *coughing, chills, difficult breathing, sneezing, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, etc.*, client will cancel the appointment or agree to conduct the session via telehealth. If client cancels for this reason, the cancellation fee will be waived. _____

- Clients will wait in their car until their session time, and will not arrive more than five minutes early, as we want to avoid exposure to others as much as possible. If client has a ride from a friend or family member, please have them wait in their car for the duration of the session. Client will exit the office as soon as the session is complete and if waiting for someone to pick them up, agrees to wait in a designated area where they can remain at least 6 feet apart from others. _____
- Client agrees to wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when entering the office. We will do our best to have sanitizer available in the office, depending on available supplies. If none is available, clients can wash their hands in the bathroom on the first floor. _____
- Client agrees to adhere to safe-distancing precautions and agrees to maintain a safe distance of at least 6 feet at all times. Client also agrees to no physical contact (i.e. hugs, handshakes) _____
- Client agrees to wear a mask at all times when in the building and the Paradigm office. If it is not possible for client to wear a mask for the duration of the session (mostly 60 minutes), client will agree to continue sessions via telehealth. _____
- Client will try to not touch their face or hands. If they do, their counselor will ask you to immediately wash or sanitize your hands. _____
- Client agrees to come to sessions alone, unless they are in session with a family member, or unless previously agreed upon with their counselor. If they are unable to come alone, client agrees to continue visits via telehealth. _____
- Clients will do their best, between sessions, to minimize your exposure to COVID-19 by agreeing to stay home as much as possible and refrain from social interactions with others unrelated to work. If client cannot agree to this, counselor may advise the sessions continue via telehealth. _____
- If client has a job that exposes them to others who may be infected, client agrees to disclose this to their counselor immediately. _____
- If anyone client comes into direct contact with has tested positive for COVID-19, client agrees to disclose this information to their provider immediately and will agree to visits via telehealth for an agreed upon length of time. _____
- Client understands that if anything changes due to COVID-19, the Paradigm office may close again with less than 24 hours notice and that telehealth visits will resume indefinitely until further notice. _____

By signing below, client and counselor have agreed to all maintaining all guidelines.

Client Signature

Counselor Signature

Date

Date