**Informed Consent for Mountain Wellness Associates Telehealth Services**

Effective March 26, 2020, Mountain Wellness Associates is transitioning to Telehealth services due to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to protect the public and health care providers. This transition is temporary in nature and services will return to in-person therapy services as soon as possible. During this time, please be aware of the following:

* There are potential benefits and risks of Telehealth (video conferencing and/or telephonic) that differ from in-person sessions (e.g. limits to patient confidentiality).
* Confidentiality still applies to for Telehealth services and nobody will record the session without the permission from the other person(s).
* MWA will select a HIPAA compliant video-conferencing platform for our virtual sessions and your therapist will explain how to use it prior to your first Telehealth session.
* You will need to use a smartphone or a computer with a webcam in order to access the video-conferencing platform.
* You will need to share with your therapist a phone number that your therapist can contact you at should technical problems occur. If technical problems persist, the session can immediately transition to a telephonic session. If your internet connection is insufficient for the video-conferencing platform, the session can be telephonic in its entirety.
* It is important to use a secure internet connection rather than a public/free Wi-Fi connection in order for you to maintain your confidentiality.
* It is important for you to be in a quiet, private space that is free of distractions (including cell phone or other devices) during the session.
* In order to maintain as much normalcy and consistency with your therapy experience, your therapist will attempt to video-conference with you from his/her office location at 155 Washington St. Should further state or local regulations, or further health risks occur, your therapist may be able to conference with you from a different, secure location that will continue to maintain your confidentiality. Should that occur, your therapist will communicate that to you.
* It is important for you to be on time. If you need to cancel or reschedule your Telehealth appointment, please use existing notification agreements with your therapist (i.e. notification the day before your appointment).
* Your therapist will need a safety plan from you that includes emergency information in the case of a clinical emergency. Please fill out the information below.
* Mountain Wellness Associates has communicated with insurance companies to determine if your insurance company will reimburse for Telehealth sessions. You should confirm this with your insurer as well so as to avoid unplanned financial responsibilities for services provided.
* Your therapist will communicate to you when the transition to in-person sessions will occur.

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**Client Name (Printed) Signature Date**

**Best phone # to reach you at:**

**Email:**

**Emergency Contact person (Name and phone #):**

**Nearest Hospital (Name and phone #):**

**Nearest Police Station (Name and phone #):**

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**Clinician’s signature (to be completed upon receipt of signed Informed Consent) Date**