

Jeannie Wolitzer, M.S., MFT
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

2222 Second Street Suite 14
Livermore, CA 94550

MFC #45633
Phone: 925 518 4445

Counseling Agreement

Dear Client:

I welcome the opportunity to work towards growth and positive change with you. As we begin work together I ask you to carefully read the following information about my policies. I welcome any comments or questions you may have before you sign this agreement.

- **Confidentiality:** Everything we discuss will be confidential and privileged. This means I legally and ethically CANNOT and WILL NOT repeat anything you say to me to anyone with the following exceptions:
 - If you sign a release of information form granting me permission to share specific information with a specific person (such as a doctor or your child's teacher).
 - As a mandated reporter I legally MUST report any indication or suspicion of abuse or neglect to a child, dependent adult or elderly adult.
 - If you tell me you intend physical harm to anyone I am legally required to report.
 - If I am concerned that you may be suicidal I will take measures I determine appropriate to ensure your safety.
 - If there are legal proceedings in which the court rules that I must provide information.If any of these situations arise, I will work to serve your best interest and to provide only relevant information to protect you, assure the safety of others and comply with the law.
- You can contact me by:
 - Phone or text at (925) 518 4445.
 - Email to jwolitzer@gmail.com
 - I check messages regularly and I make every effort to return calls promptly on weekdays. If our phone contact extends beyond 15 minutes it is subject to charge at the rate of a regular session fee, prorated for time.
- During times of urgent need, I encourage you to contact me. However I am not available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. **If you experience a life threatening emergency or crisis, telephone 911 immediately and/or go to the nearest emergency room.**
 - If you do not have a life threatening emergency but need to speak to someone when I am not available, a 24 hour crisis hotline is available at 925 449 5566
- Sessions last 50 minutes unless we arrange in advance to schedule a longer session. Please arrive promptly so we may use that time fully. Fees will apply for the full session if you are late.
- Your appointment time is reserved just for you. If you do not show up for your appointment time or if you cancel with less than 24 hours notice you will be charged the full fee.

- I ask that you come to your session at least 24 hours clean and sober so that our work can be accomplished with a clear mind. If you are under the influence, I reserve the right to end the session and charge for that appointment.
- If your child is my client, therapy will depend upon a relationship in which your child can trust that I will respect his/her confidentiality. I will give you general updates on therapy progress and I will break confidentiality if I have concerns about serious danger, but otherwise I will share specific information with you only with the consent and participation of your child.
- If therapy is being provided to your family or your relationship as a couple, my policy of *no shared secrets* applies. This means I will not hold a significant piece of information told to me by one family member as a secret from others. To do so would compromise my ability to treat your family or relationship in the necessary balanced and open manner.

Therapy requires that our relationship offers you a safe, respectful, trustworthy place to explore your concerns. If you are unhappy with any aspect of therapy or our relationship I encourage you to let me know. I value this opportunity to work with you.

I have read this agreement and have discussed any questions or points of concern.

Client Signature

Date

Client Signature

Date

Jeannie Wolitzer MFT

Date

In the case of a minor receiving therapy services:

As the parent or guardian, I give my consent to Jeannie Wolitzer MFT to provide counseling treatment to

Child's name

Parent or Guardian

Date