



## College of Education

Belin-Blank Center

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### **INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

Since March of 2020, leaders at the University of Iowa have been carefully monitoring the COVID-19 public health crisis, and have quickly enacted closures and other safety measures in the interest of protecting the public. The University of Iowa is continuing to use all available information in making decisions regarding all activities occurring on campus. While the COVID-19 public health crisis is still present, it was determined that certain in-person clinical activities that cannot be performed via telepsychology would be permitted to resume at the Belin-Blank Center Assessment and Counseling Clinic provided that all parties involved abide by the safety protocols outlined in this document.

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to participate in in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. “You” either refers to you as an adult client or your child if the client is a minor. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between us.

#### **Decision to Meet Face-to-Face**

We have agreed to meet in person for services at the Assessment and Counseling Clinic (ACC). If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, I may require that we meet via telehealth, or if that is not possible, delay our services until such time that we can safely resume. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will talk about it and try to address any issues. You understand that, if I believe it is necessary (and if it is possible for the type of service you are receiving), I may determine that we must proceed via telehealth for everyone’s well-being.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, I will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so that is an issue we may also need to discuss.

#### **Risks of Opting for In-Person Services**

You understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

#### **Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure**

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you/your child, me, our families, ACC staff, and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting or returning to a telehealth arrangement or suspending clinical services if telehealth is not a viable option.

- You will only keep your/your child’s in-person appointment if you/your child are symptom free.
- You will take your/your child’s temperature before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100° F or more), or if you/your child have other symptoms of the coronavirus, you agree to cancel the appointment. There will be no cancellation fee. Temperatures will also be taken using a touch-free thermometer at the ACC.
- You/your child will wait in your car or outside [or in a designated safer waiting area] until no earlier than 5 minutes before our appointment time.
- You/your child will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building.
- You/your child will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy room. For example, you/your child will not move chairs and you/your child will sit in the designated areas only.
- You/your child will wear a mask and/or face shield in all areas of the office (the ACC staff will too). I will discuss with you any exceptions to this rule that may be necessary for administration of specific tests that require observation of the face and mouth.

- To the extent possible, you and your child will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with me or clinic staff.
- To the extent possible, you will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will wash or sanitize your hands.
- If the client is a minor, they may be accompanied by only one adult to the appointment, and that adult is subject to all of the same conditions detailed in this document. Adult clients are not allowed to bring visitors.
- Toys, books, and other property belonging to the ACC will not be available during the COVID-19 crisis. Children may bring one toy or book with them to entertain themselves in the waiting area.
- You/your child will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID-19.
- If you (or another member of your household) have a job that directly exposes you to other people who are infected (e.g., a healthcare, daycare, skilled nursing/assisted living, or factory/processing facility with a known outbreak), you will let me and my staff know.
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection within 14 days of your appointment at the ACC, you will immediately let me and my staff know, and we will then determine the safest way to proceed.

I may change the above precautions if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will talk about any necessary changes.

**My Commitment to Minimize Exposure**

The ACC has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office and we have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let me know if you have questions about these efforts.

**If You or I Are Sick**

You understand that I am committed to keeping you, me, the staff and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and I or the office staff believe that you have a fever (100° F or higher) or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, I will have to require you to leave the office immediately. We will reschedule as soon as it is safe to do so.

If I, my family members, or anyone else on the ACC staff test positive for the coronavirus within 14 days of your appointment, I will notify you so that you can take appropriate precautions.

**Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection**

If you/your child have tested positive for the coronavirus, I may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If I have to report this, I will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that I may do so without an additional signed release.

**Informed Consent**

This agreement supplements the general service agreement that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_

Client Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Client or Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Client or Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Psychologist Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

## Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic

The Assessment and Counseling Clinic (ACC) is taking the following precautions to protect our clients and help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

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- Office seating in the waiting room and in therapy/testing rooms has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing to the extent possible, and a plexiglass partition will be used to separate the client from the clinician during testing.
- All ACC staff wear masks and/or face shields, and all clients/accompanying parent are requested to wear masks. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided to you.
- ACC staff maintain safe distancing.
- Clients, the accompanying parent, and staff will have their temperature taken using a touch-free thermometer upon arriving to the clinic. If the temperature reads 100° F or higher, the appointment will be rescheduled.
- Restroom soap dispensers are maintained and everyone is encouraged to wash their hands.
- Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is available in the therapy/testing rooms, the waiting room, and at the reception desk. Please sanitize your hands upon arriving to the center.
- Appointments are scheduled at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting room.
- We ask all clients to wait in their cars or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before their appointment times.
- Children may be accompanied by one adult. No other visitors are permitted.
- The ACC will not provide toys or books for clients to use to entertain themselves. Children may bring one toy or book from home.
- Testing materials, objects, and areas that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized after each use.
- To the extent possible, physical contact between clients/parent and clinic staff will be avoided.
- Tissues and trash bins will be made easily accessible. Trash will be disposed of on a frequent basis.
- Common areas will be thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.