PRACTICE POLICIES

LeAnn Gardner, LISW-CP (SC MSW 8626)

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APPOINTMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

The standard meeting time for psychotherapy is 50 minutes. This allows a few minutes for the therapist to record notes and complete billing for your session. Please remember to cancel or reschedule 24 hours in advance. If the appointment is not cancelled 24 hours in advance, it is considered a late cancellation. If you late cancel or miss your first appointment, you will be charged the full session fee. Once you are an established client, you will be responsible for a \$25 fee for late cancellation or no show. Late cancellations and no shows will be subject to this charge regardless of reason. This is necessary because a time commitment is made to you and is held exclusively for you. If you are late for a session, you may lose some of that session time.

TELEPHONE ACCESSIBILITY

If you need to contact me between sessions, please leave a message on my voice mail. I am often not immediately available; however, I will attempt to return your call within 24 hours. If a true emergency situation arises, please call 911 or any local emergency room.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATION

Due to the importance of your confidentiality and the importance of minimizing multiple relationships, I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc). I believe that adding clients as friends or contacts on these sites can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship. If you have questions about this, please bring them up when we meet and we can talk more about it.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

I cannot ensure the confidentiality of any form of communication through electronic media, including text messages. If you prefer to communicate via email or text messaging for issues regarding scheduling or cancellations, I will do so. While I may try to return messages in a timely manner, I cannot guarantee immediate response and request that you do not use these methods of communication to discuss therapeutic content and/or request assistance for emergencies.

MINORS

If you are a minor, your parents may be legally entitled to some information about your therapy. I will discuss with you and your parents what information is appropriate for them to receive and which issues are more appropriately kept confidential.

TERMINATION

Ending relationships can be difficult. Therefore, it is important to have a termination process in order to

achieve some closure. The appropriate length of the termination depends on the length and intensity of the treatment. I may terminate treatment after appropriate discussion with you and a termination process if I determine that the psychotherapy is not being effectively used or if you are in default on payment. I will not terminate the therapeutic relationship without first discussing and exploring the reasons and purpose of terminating. If therapy is terminated for any reason or you request another therapist, I will provide you with a list of qualified psychotherapists to treat you. You may also choose someone on your own or from another referral source. Should you fail to schedule an appointment for three consecutive weeks, unless other arrangements have been made in advance, for legal and ethical reasons, I must consider the professional relationship discontinued.

PAYMENT

LeAnn uses the Ivy Pay integration system for payment. You will enter your own credit card information after the first session. LeAnn also takes check or cash and can provide receipts and/or superbills for service. LeAnn does not take insurance. By signing below, you understand that if you have insurance coverage, you are foregoing using this coverage by seeing LeAnn, who does not take insurance.

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BY SIGNING BELOW, I AM AGREEING THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

SIGNATURE	DATE