



Andrew S. Brimhall, Ph.D.

Therapy for Individuals, Couples, and Families
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Informed Consent

General Information:

Andrew S. Brimhall, Ph.D., LMFT provides marriage and family therapy services. My goal is to provide consistent and professionally competent services for my clients. Do not hesitate to ask questions or discuss any part of the counseling process with me. The most important aspect of the therapeutic process is the relationship between the therapist and the client. Therefore, I welcome, and encourage, any questions you may have. Additionally, please feel free to reference my website: www.andrewbrimhall.com

Confidentiality:

Case records will be kept confidential and private unless disclosure is authorized or required by law. Under current North Carolina law, what the clients says to the therapist is not protected completely as a “privileged communication.” North Carolina law and ethical practice requires me to notify appropriate state agencies if I suspect or know of:

- Any incident involving child abuse or neglect
- Any incident involving abuse or neglect to an elderly person who is 70 years of age or older or to an at-risk adult with and intellectual or developmental disability,
- if there is an eminent danger to yourself and/or another person
- if I am subpoenaed by a court of law

In matters where disclosure is not authorized or required by law, confidential information will not be released without your written authorization. In situations where a written consent is necessary and there are multiple clients who are a part of therapy (e.g., couple, family group, and other instances), all clients will need to sign a written consent for Dr. Brimhall to release confidential information.

Consent:

By signing this form, you voluntarily consent to receive therapy services or have your child accept services provided by me. Also, it is understood that you may leave therapy at any time, although terminating therapy is best accomplished in consultation with your therapist. This consent to services will be valid and remain in effect as long as you are receiving services, unless it is revoked by you, with written notice provided to the therapist aforementioned.

Responsibilities and Risks:

I (the client) understand that therapy has the potential for emotional stress, strains and life changes. I understand that Dr. Brimhall is a resource, but that it is my responsibility to work hard to change thoughts, feelings and relationships. I understand that there are no guarantees of results from therapy.

Payment and Cancellations:

Payment is due following each 50-minute session. If additional time is requested, it will be billed in ½ hour increments. If you are using insurance to support therapy, it is your responsibility to obtain reimbursement by your insurance. The standard fee for therapeutic services from Andrew S. Brimhall, Ph.D., LMFT, is \$120.00 per hour. Please notify me if you are unable to attend a session 24 hours in advance. If you do not provide me with at least 24 hours' notice in advance, you are responsible for full payment for the missed session. Therapy may be terminated if you miss two consecutive sessions or get behind on payment for more than two sessions. Payments may be made by cash, check, or credit card. If you chose to pay by credit card there is a small processing fee that will be your responsibility (typically 3%). If you have any concerns regarding payment, please feel free to discuss them with me. After discussing the fee agreements and breakdown, you agree to pay the following fees:

Client Pay: \$ _____ Other _____ Pay: \$ _____

Therapist Availability/ Emergencies:

Telephone consultations between office visits are welcome. However, I will attempt to keep those contacts brief due to my belief that important issues are better addressed within regularly scheduled sessions. Telephone conversations longer than ten minutes will be billed at ½ hour rates of \$50 per hour.

You may leave a message for me at any time in my confidential voicemail at (919) 964-1352. If you would like for me to return your call, please be sure to leave your name and phone number(s), along with a brief message concerning the nature of your call. Non-urgent phone calls are returned during normal workdays (Monday through Friday) within 24 hours. If you have a medical or psychiatric emergency, please call 911.

Therapy Versus Evaluation:

I understand that a therapeutic assessment is different from a forensic evaluation. A therapeutic assessment is conducted for the purpose of helping the person being assessed. A forensic evaluation is conducted solely to establish the facts of a situation so this information can be reported in court and used to make some type of determination. I understand that I am seeking therapy rather than a forensic evaluation. I also understand that should I need a forensic evaluation, for any purpose, my therapist can provide me with referrals to other providers for this service. Finally, I understand that my therapist cannot do both, provide therapy and provide an evaluation. Functioning in both roles would be inappropriate and it needs to be determined from the beginning which role is being provided.

Also, if you are involved in divorce or custody litigation, my role as a therapist is not to make recommendations to the court concerning custody or parenting issues. By signing the disclosure statement, you agree not to subpoena me to court for testimony or for disclosure of treatment information in such litigation; and you agree not to request that I write any reports to the court or your attorney making recommendations concerning custody. The court can appoint professionals, who have no prior relationship with family members, to conduct an investigation or evaluation and to make recommendations to the court concerning parental responsibilities or parenting time in the best interest of the family's children.

Electronic Communications:

I cannot ensure the confidentiality of any form of communication through electronic media, including text messages. You are also advised that any email sent to me via computer in a work-place environment is legally accessible by an employer. If you prefer to communicate via email or text messaging for issues regarding scheduling or cancellations, I will do so. However, you need to understand that this type of

communication is not secure and jeopardizes your confidentiality. 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.

About the Therapy Process:

It is my intention to provide professional services that will assist you in reaching your goals. Based upon the information that you provide to me and the specifics of your situation, I will provide recommendations to you regarding your treatment. I believe that therapists and clients are partners in the therapeutic process. You have the right to agree or disagree with my recommendations. Remember, therapy is a service that you purchase, and if you are not happy with the services received, it is your responsibility to make that known so we can discuss any hindrances to your progress. I will also periodically initiate discussions about the progress of treatment.

Due to the varying nature and severity of problems and the individuality of each client, I am unable to predict the length of your therapy or guarantee a specific outcome or result. I certify that this form, including the statements on the limits of confidentiality, has been fully explained to me, that I have read it or had it read to me*, and that I understand its contents. I certify that I have legal authority to give consent for the treatment of all minor children that are included in therapy. I certify that I have received a copy of this form.

X _____
Client/ Other Legally authorized Person

X _____
*Client/Other Legally authorized Person

X _____
Print Name and Relationship to Client

X _____
Print name and Relationship to Client

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

Client Information Questionnaire

Your cooperation in completing this questionnaire will be helpful in planning the best services for you. Please answer each item carefully. If you do not understand any item, please ask your therapist for clarification.

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): Home (____) _____ Leave Message: Yes No
Work: (____) _____ Leave Message: Yes No

Age: _____ Sex: Male Female

Relational status: _____

Occupation: _____

Gross annual family income: _____

Highest level of education: _____

Religious preference: _____

Who do you live with?

| Name | Age | Sex (m/f) | Relationship |
|-------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Are you presently taking any medications? Yes No

If yes, please list medication name, dosage, and prescribing physician.

List any health problems for which you currently receive treatment.

Have you ever considered suicide? Yes No _____

Have you ever attempted suicide? Yes No If yes, when? _____

Briefly describe your reasons for seeking counseling

Have you ever consulted a counselor before? Yes No

| Where | When | For how long | For what reason |
|-------|------|--------------|-----------------|
|-------|------|--------------|-----------------|

What was your reaction to your previous counseling?

How many sessions do you think it will take to resolve the issues that brought you to counseling?

How did you hear about my services? _____

If it was the internet, which site?

- www.andrewbrimhall.com
- Psychology Today
- www.beaconfamilytherapy.com

Circle any of the following that are presently causing you difficulty:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Assertiveness | Health problems | Career choices | Separation |
| Parenting | Alcohol use | Legal matters | Self-concept |
| Sexual problems | Marriage | Religion | Divorce |
| Nightmares | Loneliness | In-laws | Temper |
| Self-control | Communication | My past | Suicidal thoughts |
| Nervousness | Lack of Energy | Sleep | Decision making |
| Physical abuse | Children | Parents | Insomnia |
| Depression | Sexual abuse | Shyness | Guilt |
| Stress | Inferiority | Friends | Dating |
| Memory | Drug use | Headaches | Tiredness |
| Finances | Appetite | School | Unhappiness |
| Fears | Work | Confusion | Premarital |

Other _____

Please **UNDERLINE** the items that are causing you the MOST difficulty.

Brief Accessibility, Responsiveness, and Engagement (BARE) Scale

Please circle the number that best represents your experiences in your current relationship with your partner.

1 = Never True; 2 = Rarely True; 3 = Sometimes True; 4 = Usually True; 5 = Always True.

Accessibility

1. I am rarely available to my partner. 1 2 3 4 5
2. It is hard for my partner to get my attention. 1 2 3 4 5

Responsiveness

3. I listen when my partner shares her/his deepest feelings. 1 2 3 4 5
4. I am confident I reach out to my partner 1 2 3 4 5

Engagement

5. It is hard for me to confide in my partner. 1 2 3 4 5
6. I struggle to feel close and engaged in our relationship. 1 2 3 4 5

Partner's Accessibility

7. My partner is rarely available to me. 1 2 3 4 5
8. It is hard for me to get my partner's attention. 1 2 3 4 5

Partner's Responsiveness

9. My partner listens when I share my deepest feelings. 1 2 3 4 5
10. I am confident my partner reaches out to me. 1 2 3 4 5

Partner's Engagement

11. It is hard for my partner to confide in me. 1 2 3 4 5
12. My partner struggles to feel close and engaged in our relationship. 1 2 3 4 5

7. Was your mother or stepmother:

Often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her?

or

Sometimes or often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard?

or

Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?

Yes No

If yes enter 1 _____

8. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?

Yes No

If yes enter 1 _____

9. Was a household member depressed or mentally ill or did a household member attempt suicide?

Yes No

If yes enter 1 _____

10. Did a household member go to prison?

Yes No

If yes enter 1 _____

Now add up your “Yes” answers: _____ This is your ACE Score