

**Tom Neilson, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychology
1410 17th Avenue South
Nashville, TN. 37212**

Informed Consent Checklist for Tele-Psychological Services

- There are potential benefits and risks of video-conferencing (e.g. limits to patient confidentiality) that differ from in-person sessions. To minimize risks to your confidentiality, I use a telehealth platform called GoToMeeting that is fully HIPAA compliant and encrypts all data before passing it over the Internet, consistent with HIPPA Security Standards, including AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) encryption using 128 bit keys to protect the data stream.
- Confidentiality still applies for telepsychology services, and your session will not be recorded without your permission.
- By signing this agreement, you consent to using the GoToMeeting video-conferencing platform selected for our virtual sessions, and Dr. Neilson will explain how to use it.
- You need to use either a smartphone, a tablet, a computer with a built-in webcam, or a computer with a separate webcam during the session.
- It is important to be in a quiet, private space that is free of distractions (including additional cell phones or other devices) during the session.
- It is important to use a secure internet connection rather than public/free Wi-Fi.
- If you need to cancel or change your tele-health appointment, you must notify Dr. Neilson 24 hours in advance by phone or text message.
- We need a back-up plan (e.g., phone number where you can be reached) to restart the session or to reschedule it, in the event of technical problems.
- We need a safety plan that includes at least one emergency contact and (if you live outside Davidson County and the metropolitan Nashville area), where Dr.

Neilson is located) the closest emergency room to your location, in the event of a crisis situation.

- You should confirm with your insurance company that the video sessions will be reimbursed; if they are not reimbursed, you are responsible for full payment.
- As your psychologist, I may determine that due to certain circumstances, telepsychology is no longer appropriate and that we should resume our sessions in-person.
- Dr. Neilson is licensed to practice psychology in the state of Tennessee only. The licensing laws of Tennessee and other states require that both he and his clients be physically present in Tennessee during therapy sessions. By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you are a Tennessee resident and that you will be physically present in Tennessee during therapy sessions. Dr. Neilson cannot provide therapy services to you while you are traveling out of state.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has waived a number of HIPAA Telehealth rules including the requirement that a HIPAA-compliant Telehealth platform be used, as well as the Medicare rule that patients must be located in a medical facility when receiving Telehealth for Medicare coverage of services. Therefore, if you prefer, we can use video-calling applications that are not HIPAA compliant, such as FaceTime and Skype. This option will no longer be available when the pandemic ends, and HHS rescinds the waivers. It is likely, but not certain, that Medicare will discontinue paying for Telehealth services that you receive in your home when the pandemic ends.

Client signature

Tom Neilson, Psy.D.

Date