

# Informed Consent for Counseling and Psychotherapy



This informed consent document is intended to provide general information about the counseling services provided by Serenity Life Coaching + Therapy Name, BGV Consulting. This is a legal document; please read it carefully before signing.

## Mental Health Services

Serenity Life Coaching + Therapy Name, BGV Consulting, recognizes that it may not be easy to seek help from a mental health professional. It is your therapist's intention to provide services that will assist you in reaching your goals. Based upon the information that you provide to your therapist and the specifics of your situation, your therapist will provide recommendations to you regarding your treatment. We believe that therapists and patients are partners in the therapeutic process. You have the right to agree or disagree with your therapist's recommendations. Due to the varying nature and severity of problems and the individuality of each patient, your therapist is unable to predict the length of your therapy or to guarantee a specific outcome or result.

## Nature of Therapy & Risks

It is important to understand that there are both benefits and risks associated with participation in therapy. Therapy may improve the ability to relate to others, provide a clearer understanding of self, values, and goals, and an ability to deal with everyday stress. However, clients often learn things about themselves that they don't like. Often growth cannot occur until past issues are experienced and confronted, often causing distressing feelings such as sadness and anxiety. Therapy can lead to unanticipated feelings and change, which might have an unexpected impact on you, and your relationships. For example, marital therapy may lead to the possibility of exercising the divorce option.

## Relationship

The relationship you have with your therapist is a professional and therapeutic relationship. In order to preserve this relationship, it is imperative that your therapist not have any other type of relationship with you. It is not appropriate to share gifts, barter, or trade services with your therapist.

## Confidentiality

Discussions between you and your therapist are confidential. No information will be released without your written consent unless mandated by law. Possible exceptions to confidentiality include but are not limited to the following situations: child abuse; abuse of the elderly or disabled; abuse of patients in mental health facilities; sexual exploitation; criminal prosecutions; child custody cases, suits in which the mental health of a party is in issue; situations where the therapist has a duty to disclose, or where, in the therapist's judgment, it is necessary to warn, notify, or disclose. If you have any questions regarding confidentiality, you should bring them to the attention of your therapist when you and the therapist discuss this matter further.

## After-Hour Concerns & Emergencies

As a general rule, it is our belief that important issues are better addressed within regularly scheduled sessions. However, you may contact your therapist in between sessions. You may leave a message for your therapist at any time on his/her confidential voicemail. If you wish your therapist 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. In the event of a medical or psychiatric emergency or an emergency involving a threat to your safety or the safety of others, please call 911 to request emergency assistance.

## Communication

By signing the Informed Consent for Counseling and Psychotherapy document, you are consenting for Serenity Life Coaching + Therapy Name, BGV Consulting, to communicate with you by phone, e-mail, and at the address provided on your client intake form. You agree to notify us if you need to opt out of any form of communication.



#### Fees & Insurance

- Please note that Serenity Life Coaching + Therapy, BGV Consulting, does not take insurance and is privately paid. The financial responsibility is yours and you will be required to pay for services as discussed and agreed upon. Please discuss any questions or concerns that you may have about this with your therapist.

#### Notice to Clients

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice of (marriage and family therapists, licensed educational psychologists, clinical social workers, or professional clinical counselors). You may contact the board online at [www.michigan.gov/lara](http://www.michigan.gov/lara), or by calling (517) 241-0199.

#### Consent to Treat

By signing the Informed Consent for Counseling and Psychotherapy, you voluntarily agree to receive mental health assessment, care, treatment, or services and authorize the therapist to provide such care, treatment, or services as are considered necessary and advisable. Signing indicates that you understand and agree that you will participate in the planning of your care, treatment, or services and that you may stop such care, treatment, or services at any time. By signing the Informed Consent for Counseling and Psychotherapy document you acknowledge that you have both read and understood all the terms and information contained herein. You also agree that you have had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification of anything that remains unclear and that those questions have been answered satisfactorily.

Your signature below indicates that you have read this agreement for services carefully and understand its contents.

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Name Printed

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Signature

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Date