

**From the office of Elizabeth Santana LCSW, PC**

### **Nature and Limits of Confidentiality in Psychotherapy**

Confidentiality means that I cannot and will not talk to other people about you and our work except under specific circumstances. This means your husband ,wife, partner, friend, parents, or other agency personnel can't call me up and ask about you. If they do, I say I cannot confirm or deny knowing you. As soon as I get a call like this, I will contact you and tell you. If you are under 18, your parents can ask about you, and have a right to know what we are talking about. If you are over 16 and under 18, you can tell me not to talk to your parents and I would have to respect your wishes. However, your parents still have the right to inspect your medical records. This is the basics of confidentiality.

Licensed Clinical Social Workers have a duty to protect people from abuse.

Here are the limits of confidentiality. If you talk about and identify a child under the age of 18 that is being abused, anyone over the age of 60 that is being abused, and anyone, of any age, that has a disability that is being abused, I will have to break your confidentiality.

Licensed Clinical Social Workers have a duty to protect patients from committing suicide. I will have to break your confidentiality if I have reason to believe you will kill yourself.

Licensed Clinical Social Workers have a duty to warn and protect intended victims of homicide. I will have to break your confidentiality if you are planning to kill someone. Should you have a plan and have intention to commit murder and you tell me about it, and you identify your intended victim, I will have to take every action at my disposal to protect you from committing this crime and protect your intended victim. I am required to warn your intended victim and am required to warn the police.

If you give me permission to release information about you to someone, I will do so, after obtaining written consent from you. I will release information without your permission if you are a risk to self, risk to others, or disclose abuse that I am mandated to report. Short of that, I would need a court order from a judge to release information.

Patient Signature :

Therapist Signature :

Date signed :