



STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR TELETHERAPY

- A. Before providing teletherapy services, a counselor or therapist shall develop and follow a procedure to:
 - 1. Verify the identification of the client receiving teletherapy services;
 - 2. Obtain informed consent specific to telehealth services using appropriate language understandable to the client;
 - 3. Prevent access to data by unauthorized persons through encryption, or other means;
 - 4. Notify clients in the event of a data breach;
 - 5. Ensure that the teletherapy practitioner provides a secure and private teletherapy connection and complies with federal and state privacy laws, and
 - 6. Establish safety protocols to be used in the case of an emergency, including contact information for emergency services at the client's location.

- B. A counselor or therapist shall:
 - 1. Obtain or confirm an alternative method of contacting the client in case of a technological failure;
 - 2. Determine whether the client is in Maryland and identify the client's specific location;
 - 3. For an initial teletherapy interaction only, disclose the counselor or therapist's name, location, license number, and contact information;
 - 4. Identify all individuals present at each location and confirm they are permitted to hear the client's health information; and
 - 5. Be held to the same standards of practice and documentation as those applicable for in-person sessions.

- C. A counselor or therapist may not treat a client based solely on an online questionnaire.

D. Client shall:

1. Provide a safe and secure location to receive services, be prompt to appointments, and ensure a safe and private online/internet connection;
2. Provide the necessary and truthful identifying information as the client receiving services, including name, contact information in case of emergencies, and current location; and
3. Be held to the same standards of participation as those applicable for in-person sessions and services.

I have read and agree to the terms of receiving Teletherapy services provided through a secure and private telehealth connection. I understand the telehealth platform, TheraNest, complies with federal and state privacy laws.

Client Signature

Date

Counselor Signature

Date