

Social Media Policy

My practice fully respects the rights of all peoples including current, former or potential clients to engage in online activities. This social media policy is designed to provide guidelines regarding interacting with my “online presence.” The objectives are to protect your confidentiality, privacy and maintain appropriate professional boundaries.

If you have any questions about anything within this document, I encourage you to bring them up when we meet. As new technology develops and the Internet changes, there may be times when I need to update this policy. If I do so, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy.

Social Media Accounts:

I have several professional social media accounts including but not limited to a Facebook Business Page, a Google + Business Page, a LinkedIn profile, Twitter, Instagram and professional blogs. I do communicate through social media. These communications are referred to as social media disclosures. These social media disclosures are intended for general information purposes and for “connecting” with the public. I will never post any identifying information about any client on social media.

I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.). I believe that adding clients as friends or contacts on these sites can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship. If you have questions about this, please bring them up when we meet and we can talk more about it.

You are welcome to view my Facebook Page and read or share articles posted there, but I do not accept clients as Fans of this Page. I believe having clients as Facebook Fans creates a greater likelihood of compromised client confidentiality and I feel it is best to be explicit to all who may view my list of Fans to know that they will not find client names on that list.

How You Choose to Interact with Me Online:

You are under no obligation to find and engage with me through social media in any manner. If you choose to engage with me through social media, for example commenting on a post, and you can be identified, this may compromise your confidentiality. As such, I will not respond to known clients on social media. You agree not to use any of my Social Media platforms to communicate to me any information about our professional relationship including but not limited to changing appointment times, discussing issues that occurred in your counseling sessions or to indicate that you are having a crisis.

Email, Texting and Voicemail:

I prefer using email only to arrange or modify appointments. Please do not email me content related to your therapy sessions, as email is not completely secure or confidential. You may be aware that e-mails, texting and cell phone voicemails are NOT 100% tamper proof and can also be accessed by the network administrators of the service providers. However, this is unlikely to happen. By choosing to e-mail, text and leave messages in my voicemail, you acknowledge and accept, however small, the risks with communicating using these methods. Due to nature of the counseling process along with state and federal laws it is recommended that the use of email and text messages be restricted to logistical information such as changing appointment times or sending and receiving forms. However, you may choose to use email and/or text message to communicate with me other issues that you may wish to discuss with me. If you use e-mail and/or text messages to communicate non logistical information you acknowledge and agree to the risks. Communication through email and/or text messaging may serve as a support to your counseling sessions but do not replace face to face sessions. You should also know that any emails I receive from you and any responses that I send to you become a part of your legal record. You agree not to use email to communicate that you are having a crisis but instead to call me or in the event of an emergency to call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department.

Business Review Sites:

You may find my psychology practice on sites such as Yelp, Health grades, Yahoo Local, Bing, yellow pages or other places which list businesses. Some of these sites include forums in which users rate their providers and add reviews. If you should find my listing on any of these sites, please know that my listing is NOT a request for a testimonial, rating, or endorsement from you as my client. Under Oregon's Ethical Code, 833-100-0041, section titled, Integrity, (10) states: A licensee does not use the counseling relationship to further personal, religious, political, sexual, or financial interests. Of course, you have a right to express yourself on any site you wish. But due to confidentiality, I cannot respond to any review on any of these sites whether it is positive or negative. I urge you to take your own privacy as seriously as I take my commitment of confidentiality to you. You should also be aware that if you are using these sites to communicate indirectly with me about your feelings about our work, there is a good possibility that I may never see it.

Location-Based Services

If you used location-based services on your mobile phone, you may wish to be aware of the privacy issues related to using these services. I do not place my practice as a check-in location on various sites such as Foursquare, Gowalla, Loopt, etc. However, if you have GPS tracking enabled on your device, it is possible that others may surmise that you are a therapy client due to

regular check-ins at my office on a weekly basis. Please be aware of this risk if you are intentionally “checking in,” from my office or if you have a passive LBS app enabled on your phone.

Questions: If you have any questions or concerns regarding my social media policy you are free to discuss them with me. I [_____] have read and fully understand the Social Media Policy of Harini Sukumaran, MA, MFT.

Name of Minor Client (if applicable): _____

(SIGNATURE OF CLIENT OR PARENT/GUARDIAN/REPRESENTATIVE)

Date: _____