



STEPPING STONE
FAMILY SERVICES

INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS BHIS SERVICES

This document contains important information about the decision to resume in-person services due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let your counselor know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between you and Stepping Stone Family Services.

Decision to Meet Face-to-Face

The decision has been made to meet in person for some or all future sessions with a Stepping Stone counselor. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, it may be required to meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will try to address any issues. If your BHIS counselor finds it necessary, it may be determined that for the safety of everyone, only telehealth would be offered.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, your decision will be respected, if it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so that is an issue we may also need to discuss.

Risks of Opting for In-Person Services

You understand that by meeting in-person, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk).

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone, including you, Stepping Stone Family Services staff, our families, and other clients, safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in returning to telehealth arrangement. Please initial each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- I will keep my in-person appointment if I am symptom free. _____
- I will take my temperature before each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if I have other symptoms of the coronavirus, I agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. _____
- I will wash my hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before meeting with my counselor.

- I will use provided hand sanitizer upon entering counselor's vehicle. _____
- I will follow safe distancing guidelines and will not engage in physical contact with my counselor (i.e. no shaking hands). _____



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- I will consider using hand sanitizer if I touch my face or eyes due to possibilities of the virus spreading in this manner. _____
- I will take steps between appointments to minimize my exposure to COVID-19. _____
- I will not include individuals or family members who are not directly involved in BHIS to the session. _____
- If I am routinely in close contact with others (beyond my family living with me), such as during commuting or engagement in activities that put me in close contact with others, I will let Stepping Stone counselor know. _____
- If a resident of my home tests positive for the infection, I will immediately let Stepping Stone counselor know so that a discussion can be made on the safest way to obtain services (telehealth or delay services). _____
- If I have a job that exposes me to other people who are infected, I will immediately let Stepping Stone counselor know. _____
- I will wear a face mask while I am in the counselor's car. If possible, I will sit in the back seat to create some distance between myself and the counselor. _____
- I will meet with my counselor outside (backyard, front yard) for each session until further notice. _____

Stepping Stone Family Services may change the above precautions if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will talk about any necessary changes.

Commitment to Minimize Exposure

Stepping Stone Family Services has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office and while providing home and community based services. Related efforts have been posted on our website and in the office. Please feel free to ask questions about these efforts.

If You or Any Stepping Stone Staff Are Sick

Stepping Stone Family Services is committed to keeping you, Stepping Stone staff, our families, and other clients safe from the spread of virus. We ask that you check your temperature prior to visiting our office or meeting with counselors. We ask that you cancel the session if you have a fever. If you present with any illnesses or symptoms of the virus, the counselor must end the session immediately. A follow up on services by telehealth will be made as appropriate. Please review our "Office Safety Precautions" for further understanding of the steps Stepping Stone is taking to ensure everyone's safety.

If the Stepping Stone counselor tests positive for the coronavirus, you will be notified so that you can take appropriate precautions.



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Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, Stepping Stone Family Services may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If we have to report this, we will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about your services. By signing this form, you are agreeing that Stepping Stone Family Services may do so without an additional signed release.

Informed Consent

This agreement supplements the general informed consent discussed and agreed upon at the start of services.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

Print Client Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Counselor Signature

Date