

# Ken Vanderlip, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychology • Training • Consulting

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## INFORMED CONSENT FOR TELEHEALTH

**Dr. Vanderlip Initiated this new level of service to enable continued therapeutic services during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic situation as well as for any ongoing future needs for this type of service.**

This Informed Consent for Telehealth contains important information focusing on providing healthcare services, please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions.

Telehealth refers to providing psychotherapy services remotely using telehealth technologies, including telephone (landlines, digital, cellular, wifi, etc.) and video conferencing services. There are potential benefits and risks of telehealth services that differ from in-person sessions.

One of the benefits of telehealth is that the patient and clinician can engage in services without being in the same physical location. This can be helpful particularly during situations like the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic or other situations to ensuring continuity of care, where the patient and clinician likely are in different locations or are otherwise unable to continue to meet in person.

The full extent of confidentiality and the exceptions to confidentiality that I outlined in my *Psychotherapist-Patient Services Agreement* all still apply in telehealth. However, as telehealth sessions take place outside of your psychologist's office, there are potential limits to patient confidentiality. I will take all the reasonable steps I can to help keep your information private. However, the nature of electronic communications technologies is such that I cannot guarantee that our communications can be kept confidential or that other people may not gain access to our communications.

The following information is a list of guidelines for us to follow to make this as safe as possible.

- If you agree to use my HIPPA compliant Doxy.me online telehealth video/audio platform for our virtual sessions, before and at our first virtual session Dr. Vanderlip will explain how to access and use the new platform/system. It is cloud based so you do not need to download any software.
- You need to use a computer with a webcam or smartphone during a video-conferencing session. You are solely responsible for any cost to you to obtain any necessary equipment, accessories, or software to take part in telehealth.
- It is important to use a secure internet connection and not use public/free Wi-Fi which is completely insecure. It is optimal with hardwired internet connection for videoconferencing.
- It is important to be in a quiet, private space that is free of distractions during either phone or video-conferencing sessions (including phones, or other devices) where you will not be interrupted.
- It is also important for you to protect the privacy of our session on your cell phone or other device.
- With video-conference platform we need a back-up plan (e.g., phone number where you can be reached) to restart/continue the session or to reschedule it, in the event of technical problems.

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- The telehealth sessions shall not be recorded in any way unless agreed to in writing by mutual consent.
- I will maintain a record of our session in the same way I maintain records of in-person sessions in accordance with my policies.
- It is important to be on time. If you need to cancel or change your telehealth appointment, you must notify Dr. Vanderlip 24-hours in advance by either phone or text.
- The same fee rates will apply for telehealth as apply for in-person therapy (*per signed Psychotherapist-Patient Services Agreement*). You are responsible for contacting your insurance company to confirm, whether or not, telehealth sessions will be covered and/or reimbursed. During the COVID-19 era some insurers are waiving co-pays, so it is important that you contact your insurer to also determine if there are applicable co-pays or fees which you are responsible for. ***If your insurance, HMO, third-party payor, or other managed care provider does not cover telehealth therapy sessions, you will be solely responsible for the entire fee (\$175.00) of the session. So, please contact your insurance company prior to our engaging in telehealth sessions in order to determine whether these sessions will be covered.***
- We need a safety plan that includes at least one emergency contact and the closest emergency room to your location, in the event of a crisis situation.
- For anyone that is not a legal or an independent adult, we need the permission of your parent or legal guardian (and their contact information) for you to participate in telehealth/telepsychology sessions.
- Also, as your psychologist, I may determine that due to certain circumstances, telehealth/telepsychology is no longer appropriate and that we should resume our sessions in-person as soon as it is safe within the COVID-19 guidelines to do so.

This ***Informed Consent for Telehealth*** Agreement is intended as a supplement to the initial packet of 'New Client Forms' including, ***Psychotherapist-Patient Services Agreement & Consent for Treatment Forms***, that we agreed to at the outset of our treatment together and does not amend any of the terms of that agreement.

Your signature below indicates agreement with its terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Patient Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provider Signature  
Ken Vanderlip, Ph.D.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Note: Previous verbal discussion and consent given on:*** \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Please also complete one of my Authorization for Release of Information forms with the name and phone# of your Emergency Contact. Also, on the same form, identify and give the information of the nearest hospital ER. Thank-You.***