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PATTI DI RITO, MA, LPC  
HOLY FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER

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1810 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Suite 120, Duluth, GA 30097 678-993-8494

**CLIENT CONTRACT AND CONSENT**

Client(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees and Consent to Treatment**

Fee for each counseling session is \$140.

If you wish to be considered for a sliding scale fee, please indicate your gross annual family income below. This will be discussed with your therapist at your first session.

I (We) \_\_\_\_\_ voluntarily request counseling/psychotherapy.

**Gross Annual Family Income** (including child support, trusts, inheritance, disability, etc.)

\$15,000 or less	_____	\$35,000 to \$45,000	_____
\$15,000 to \$25,000	_____	\$45,000 to \$60,000	_____
\$25,000 to \$35,000	_____	\$80,000 to \$90,000	_____
		over \$90,000	_____

**CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS** (please initial each)

- \_\_\_\_ 1. I agree to pay the standard fee of \$140.00 per each 50 minute session. If I qualify for an adjustment, the fee will then be \$\_\_\_\_\_. I understand that in order to qualify for an adjusted fee, I will need to provide my therapist with the requested documentation which may include a copy of my latest tax return and/or pay stub. I understand that any adjusted fee will be reevaluated every 6 months or as the conditions of my income change and that this adjusted fee may also change.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. I understand that **payment is due at time of service**. If you are unable to keep an appointment, **kindly give 24 hours notice**, or regular charges will apply and be charged.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. There will be a \$30.00 returned check fee.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. I understand that I will receive a form that normally suffices for insurance reimbursement.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. I have read The Privacy Policy and Informed Consent which follows.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**, please go to your nearest Emergency Room or call 911.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Our services do not include court case appearances. If we are subpoenaed for any reason, there will be a special rate assessed for this service. **Please be aware that court involvement can have a deleterious effect on the therapeutic relationship.**
- \_\_\_\_ 8. I understand that all information disclosed within session(s) is confidential and may not be revealed to anyone outside Holy Family Counseling Center without my written permission. The only exception is in situations where disclosure is required by law:
- a) If I present an imminent threat of harm to myself or to others.
  - b) When there is an indication of abuse of a child or vulnerable adult.
  - c) If I become gravely disabled.
  - d) By court subpoena.

**By signing this form you are affirming that you have read, understand, and agree to its contents.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Client(s) and parent or guardian**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PRIVACY OF INFORMATION POLICIES**

This form describes the confidentiality of your medical records, how the information is used, your rights, and how you may obtain this information.

**Our Legal Duties:** State and Federal law require that we keep your medical records private. Such laws require that we provide you with this notice informing you of our privacy of information policies, your rights, and our duties. We are required to abide by these policies until replaced or revised. We have the right to revise our privacy policies for all medical records, including records kept before the policy changes were made. Any changes in this notice will be made available upon request before changes take place. The contents of material disclosed to us in an evaluation, intake, or counseling session are covered by the law as private information. We respect the privacy of the information you provide us and we abide by ethical and legal requirements of confidentiality and privacy of records.

**Use of Information:** Information about you may be used by Holy Family Counseling Center personnel for diagnosis, treatment planning, treatment, and continuity of care. We may disclose it to health care providers who provide you with treatment, such as doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, mental health interns, and mental health professionals or business associates of Holy Family Counseling Center such as billing, quality enhancement, training, audits, and accreditation providers. Both verbal information and written records about a client cannot be shared outside Holy Family Counseling Center without the written consent of the client or the client's legal guardian or personal representative. There are certain emergency situations or exceptions in which client information can be disclosed to others without written consent. Some of these situations are noted below, and there may be other provisions provided by legal requirements. \_\_\_\_\_ *Initial*

**Duty to Warn and Protect:** When a client discloses intentions or a plan to harm another person or persons, the health care professional is required to warn the intended victim(s) and report this information to legal authorities. In cases which the client discloses or implies a plan for suicide, the health care professional is required to notify legal authorities and make reasonable attempts to notify the family of the client.

**Public Safety:** Health records may be released for judicial and administrative proceedings, law enforcement purposes, serious threats to public safety, military, and when complying with worker's compensation laws.

**Abuse:** If a client states or suggests that he or she is abusing a child or vulnerable adult, or has recently abused a child or vulnerable adult, or a child or vulnerable adult is in danger of abuse, the health care professional is required to report this information to the appropriate social service and/or legal authorities. If a client is the victim of abuse, neglect, violence, or crime, and your safety appears to be at risk, we may be required to share this information with law enforcement officials to help prevent future occurrences and to help apprehend the perpetrator.

**Prenatal Exposure to Controlled Substances:** Health care professionals are required to report admitted prenatal exposure to controlled substances that are potentially harmful.

**Professional Misconduct:** Professional misconduct by a health care professional must be reported by other health care professionals. In cases in which a professional or legal disciplinary meeting is being held regarding the health care professional's actions, related records may be released in order to substantiate disciplinary concerns.

**Judicial or Administrative Proceedings:** Health care professionals are required to release records of clients when a court order has been placed. There must be consent for our therapists to disclose information which the couple or family deemed therapeutic or necessary for treatment of the individual, couple, or family. Our services do not include court case appearances. If we are subpoenaed for any reason, there will be a special rate assessed for this service. **Please be aware that court involvement can have a deleterious effect on the therapeutic relationship.**

**By signing this form you are affirming that you have read, understand, and agree to its contents.**

**Client Signature/Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**INFORMED CONSENT FOR COUNSELING SERVICES**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Services and Staff:**

I understand that Holy Family Counseling Center is a professional agency offering a wide range of counseling services, and that these services are provided by licensed psychotherapists, master level therapists, certified addiction counselors, and graduate level interns. In all cases, trainees are supervised by licensed mental health professionals. Unless you have otherwise designated, all cases are discussed within a team supervision setting in order to enhance and assure quality of care. In addition to providing direct counseling services, this agency provides training and consultation.

**Confidentiality:**

I understand that all information disclosed within session(s) is confidential and may not be revealed to anyone outside Holy Family Counseling Center without my written permission. The only exception is in situations where disclosure is required by law:

1. If I present an imminent threat of harm to myself or to others.
2. When there is an indication of abuse of a child or vulnerable adult.
3. If I become gravely disabled.
4. By court subpoena.

**Electronic Mail:**

With respect to electronic mail (e-mail), I am cautioned that e-mail is not a confidential means of communication. Furthermore, Holy Family Counseling Center cannot ensure that e-mail messages will be received or responded to if my counselor is not available. I understand that e-mail is not the appropriate way to communicate confidential, urgent, or emergency information, or to schedule/modify/cancel appointments unless you have arranged this with your counselor.

**Emergency:**

Go to the nearest Emergency Room or call 911.

**Session Recording:**

I understand that my interviews may be video or audio recorded for the purpose of continued staff training and clinical supervision. The recordings are treated confidentially and are erased after they are used. Any concerns I have about session recording will be addressed by my counselor. I will never be video or audio recorded without my permission or knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Initial to grant permission for session recording*

**Risk and Benefits:**

I understand that there is a possibility of risks and benefits which may occur in counseling. Counseling may involve the risk of remembering unpleasant events and may arouse strong emotional feelings. Counseling can impact relationships with significant others. The benefits from counseling may be an improved ability to relate with others; a clearer understanding of self, values, and goals; increased academic productivity; and an improved ability to deal with everyday stress. Taking personal responsibility for working through these issues increases the likelihood of greater growth.

**Eligibility, Appropriateness, Referrals:**

The delivery of services from Holy Family Counseling Center to me shall be contingent upon whether the staff therapist(s) and I can agree that the services are appropriate given the needs and conditions I present. If it is decided that Holy Family Counseling Center is not the appropriate agency to meet my needs, I understand that I will be given referrals to resources more appropriate to my needs and goals.

**I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ANY QUESTIONS I HAVE ABOUT THIS INFORMATION.**

**Client's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS INFORMATION WITH THE CLIENT.**

**Staff Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Initial Assessment - Page 1 of 2 (please print)**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Client:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Each client must complete a separate assessment.** For example, husband, wife, and child each fill out a separate form.

**1. Do you have any chronic medical conditions or serious illness?** Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, please describe.

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Are you taking any medications?** Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

For how long and for what reason? \_\_\_\_\_

Any allergies or drug sensitivities? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Do you have military experience?**\_\_\_\_\_ **Please describe:**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Are you experiencing a great deal of emotional stress or problems in your life?**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, a lot \_\_\_\_ More than usual \_\_\_\_ Occasionally \_\_\_\_ Rarely

**5. Do you have relationship problems with (check all that apply):**

\_\_\_\_ Family members \_\_\_\_ Spouse/significant other \_\_\_\_ Remarried family members

\_\_\_\_ People at work \_\_\_\_ Specific friends

**Check items that apply to your situation:**

____ headaches	____ sexual problems	____ compulsive spending
____ drinking problems	____ sexual compulsions	____ use of pornography
____ dizziness	____ financial problems	____ drug problems
____ stomach trouble	____ feel like crying	____ unable to have a good time
____ bowel trouble	____ panicky feelings	____ difficulty concentrating
____ appetite change	____ tremors or tics	____ hard time with friendships
____ feel tense, uptight	____ always worried	____ irritable
____ unable to relax	____ feel apart from people	____ unusual thoughts
____ feel worthless	____ eating problems	____ can't make decisions
____ frightened, scared	____ family conflicts	____ weight gain or loss
____ feel loss/control	____ sleep problems	____ suicidal thoughts ____ suicidal actions
____ ready to explode	____ angry a lot	____ put up a good front
____ lonely	____ loss of interest in things	____ temper problems
____ low self esteem	____ misunderstood	____ legal problems
____ anxiety/worries	____ nightmares	____ hyper/too much energy
____ always tired/fatigued		____ anger/temper problems
____ people are out to get me		____ depressed, down
____ feel worthless		____ feel I will lose self-control

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**Initial Assessment Page 2 of 2 (please print)**

6. How is your spiritual life right now?

\_\_\_ In good shape     \_\_\_ Developing     \_\_\_ Needs a lot of work     \_\_\_ Very poor

7. How many changes would you like to make in your life?

\_\_\_ Very many     \_\_\_ Several     \_\_\_ A few     \_\_\_ None

8. Have you ever spoken with anyone (psychologist, counselor, psychiatrist, etc.) about any of your personal problems? (If yes, who and when?)

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Please describe any past hospitalizations in a mental health facility.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Please list the things/problems or events that are creating the most stress in your life at the present time as well as significant losses and changes in your life.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Goals in Counseling – Please list up to three goals you hope to achieve in counseling. Please be as specific as possible.

- |          |
|----------|
| 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ |

11. How strongly would you like to talk to a counselor here about any of your concerns?

\_\_\_ very much     \_\_\_ much     \_\_\_ a little     \_\_\_ not really

12. Please state any other concerns, questions, or comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**REQUEST FOR RELEASE/EXCHANGE OF CLIENT INFORMATION**

I (We) \_\_\_\_\_ **HEREBY AUTHORIZE** \_\_\_\_\_  
                 (Client Name)   (Requesting Therapist Name)  
to release/exchange information contained in my client records to the following individual(s) and/or organization

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name and phone number of person to be contacted)

The type of information to be released might include records or information concerning attendance, treatment plan, clinical assessment, psychological history, goals and progress, prognosis, or other information pertinent to the successful treatment of said client. The purpose for such disclosure/exchange might include continuity of treatment, family involvement, community support, aftercare planning, consultation with other staff therapists or referral.

I hereby release \_\_\_\_\_ from any and all liabilities, responsibilities, damages and claims  
(*Requesting Therapist Name*)  
which might arise from the release of the information authorized above. I understand that information may be transmitted by  
electronic means such as FAX and/or e-mail. Portions of the information provided may not pertain exclusively to my current  
diagnosis. I also understand that I may revoke this consent at any time or that it expires automatically as described below.

Date, Event, or Condition of expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

I further acknowledge that the information to be released was fully explained to me and this consent is given of my own free will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Client)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Witness)

(Parent, Guardian, or Authorized Representative)

*(Relationship to Client)*

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(Date)

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