



Counseling Department Informed Consent and Statement of Confidentiality

What is the Philosophy of the Beacon College Counselors: We believe that most everyone needs additional support from time to time, particularly during times of transition, like starting college. Often that support needs to be from an objective third party like a Counselor, and not a friend or family member. We believe that it is both our duty and privilege to help guide students through their individual journeys, to help them grow and develop emotionally and socially throughout their college career and beyond. Openness, honesty, and willingness and motivation on the part of the student all play a crucial role in making positive and lasting changes. All students will invest in their counseling experience by working on goals that the student makes for themselves with the assistance of their Counselor. Each Beacon College Counselor may have different values, styles, techniques, etc., but we all take pride in the collaborative challenge of helping our students.

Availability: Counselors are available for regularly scheduled appointments, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm. Students may make special arrangements for phone contact under special circumstances. Other Campus Life staff are available should an emergency arise.

Termination of Treatment: The student has the right to terminate services at any time, and we encourage the student to discuss reasons for termination with the Counselor. The Counselor may terminate or transfer a student if he or she has 2 consecutive no shows, or if an issue presents that is not within the scope of the Counselor's competence.

We want to make your visit to the Beacon College Counseling Center a comfortable and productive experience for you. It is important that you feel confident concerning your rights to confidentiality while utilizing our counseling services. Students sometimes raise questions about the privacy of what is discussed during counseling. Counseling sessions are kept confidential between you and your Beacon College Counselor, other than the exceptions listed below.

HIPAA Privacy Practices are required by law. To comply with state and federal laws regarding confidentiality, your records (which are the property of Beacon College) and information will not be released without written consent. Everything about your care will be held in strictest confidence. If you choose to have your Beacon College Counselor(s) keep a third party informed of your progress in counseling, it will be necessary to complete a Release of Information Form that will be kept in the student file in a locked filing cabinet. A "third party" example would be if you want information shared with a parent, other Beacon College Faculty/Staff, or doctor from home.

The following circumstances are an exception to keeping confidentiality and are required by law to report:

- 1.) When someone communicates threat of bodily injury to self, another person, or is suicidal.
- 2.) When there is reasonable suspicion of abuse to a child, elder, or a dependent adult which has occurred or will occur.
- 3.) When information is required by law or is ordered by the court.

(Not required by law, but standards of good practice):

- 1.) Students seen with other students as in roommate situations, couples, or groups are strongly encouraged to keep confidentiality, but it is not guaranteed. Counselor will not keep secrets from one student to another under these conditions.
- 2.) Counselors may sometimes get professional input from other Counselors without permission, but will not disclose your identity. Intern Counselors may discuss your issues with their Clinical Supervisor.

It is important to remember that electronic communication such as e-mail, faxes, and cell phones are not secure. Please keep this in mind when there is communication with a Counselor. If you have ANY questions about confidentiality, please discuss them with your Counselor.

I have read and understood the above information regarding confidentiality. I agree to disclose personal information with these exceptions in mind.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Counselor

Date