

Tim Stauffer Professional Counseling, LLC

ADVANCED INFORMED CONSENT FOR COUPLES THERAPY

This form is in addition to the general informed consent document.

Couples therapy works best when the focus of my work is on your relationship. When working with you, it is expressly understood that my patient is both your relationship and each of you as individuals. To maintain fidelity to you and your relationship, I ask for your consent on the following agreements.

No Secrets Policy

When a couple enters into counseling, it is considered to be one unit. This means that my allegiance is to the couple “unit,” and not to either partner as individuals. Therefore, I adhere to a strict “No Secrets” policy. This means that I will not hold secrets for either partner. This policy is intended to allow me to continue to treat the couple by preventing, to the extent possible, a conflict of interest from arising where an individual’s interests may not be consistent with the interests of the unit being treated.

On occasion during the counseling process, individual partners may be seen for an individual counseling session. In this case, the individual session is still considered as part of the couple’s counseling relationship. Information disclosed during individual sessions may be relevant or even essential to the proper treatment of the couple. If an individual chooses to share such information with me, I will offer the individual every opportunity to disclose the relevant information and provide guidance in this process. If the individual refuses to disclose this information within the couple’s session, I may determine that it is necessary to discontinue the counseling relationship with the couple. If there is information that an individual desires to address within the context of individual confidentiality, I will be happy to provide referrals to therapists who can provide concurrent individual therapy. This policy is intended to maintain the integrity of the couples/marital counseling relationship.

Court Proceedings/Subpoena of Records

It is understood that the purpose of marital/couples therapy is for the amelioration of distress within a relationship. Therefore, if both partners request my services as a counselor, they are expected not to use the information given to me during the therapy process against the other party in a judicial setting of any kind, be it civil, criminal, or circuit. Likewise, neither party shall for any reason attempt to subpoena my testimony or my records to be presented in a deposition or court hearing of any kind for any reason, such as a divorce or child custody case.

Release of Records

Both partners must provide their consent to release marital/couples counseling records. If one partner does not provide consent, records will not be released.

Course of Treatment

The continued participation by each person is voluntary. Either participant may suspend or terminate the therapy at her or his individual request.

I certify by my signature below that I have read, fully understand, and agree to abide by the stated policies.

Signature of Client	Print name	Date of Birth	Date Signed
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Signature of Client	Print name	Date of Birth	Date Signed
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Signature of Counselor	Print Name	Date Signed
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