

Welcome to my practice. This document contains important information about my professional services and business policies. It also contains summary information about the **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act** (HIPAA), a federal law that provides privacy protections and **patient rights** about the use and disclosure of your **Protected Health Information** (PHI) for the purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations. Although these documents are long and sometimes complex, it is very important that you understand them. When you sign this document, it will also represent an agreement between us. We can discuss any questions you have when you sign them or at any time in the future. Counseling is a relationship between people that works in part because of clearly defined rights and responsibilities held by each person. As a client in counseling, you have certain rights and responsibilities that are important for you to understand. There are also legal limitations to those rights that you should be aware of. I, as your Therapist, have corresponding responsibilities to you. These rights and responsibilities are described in the following sections.