

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This policy is relevant for various social media such as, but not limited to the following: Facebook, Blogs, Youtube, Instagram, Google, Pinterest, Flickr, Tumblr, texting, and personal email.

These policies are in place to protect your privacy and to maintain those boundaries necessary for a safe and clear therapeutic relationship.

Below is a list of these policies. Please ask your practitioner to clarify if you have any questions about these policies.

- Clients have a right to privacy in their personal life. You have the right to decide what information you will share in session, and your provider will not pursue information about you outside of sessions via any social media technology.
- If a client wishes to share information with their provider via social media for therapeutic purposes, it may be viewed in session and only at the client's request.
- Please respect the privacy of your provider and refrain from seeking out personal information about your provider (for example, about family and friends).
- If your practitioner has reason to believe that you are in imminent and serious danger to harm yourself or others, the internet may be used to locate you or your immediate family to inform them of these safety concerns. These cases are rare and will be followed by in session discussion of the event.
- Your practitioner will not follow, friend, text, comment, or fan any current or former client's social media venues.
- Confidential information should not be conveyed via email as it is not completely secure. Rather, email may be used for scheduling and non therapeutic discussions only. Please make an appointment to discuss clinical information or issues. Please note that should you choose to share clinical information via email, you do so at your own discretion. This email, and your provider's response, will be printed and added to your file.
- Email should not be used to contact your provider in the event of an emergency nor to connect with your provider outside of scheduled sessions (unless agreed upon in advance by your therapist under certain well defined conditions).
- Please allow up to two working days for the return of emails. It may take longer due to vacations and holidays. If you do not receive a response within that time frame, please call our office.
- Your provider may maintain public social media pages (e.g., Stone House Associates' Facebook page). Please be advised that if you choose to follow these sites publicly, you are doing so at your own discretion and your name may be associated with this site. Furthermore, information posted on these sites should not be taken as clinical advice or part of any therapeutic relationship.

If you have questions or concerns about any of these policies, please feel free to bring it up during your next session.