

Monica Levine LICSW/CST
413-335-5347
90 Conz St.
Northampton, Mass. 01060

INFORMATION CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS

According to the ethics of the social work profession and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, any communication between a patient and a psychotherapist is confidential. Notes documenting treatment are placed in a record. As a general rule, the content of any client-therapist communication is not disclosed and the record is not released without written permission.

However, according to state law, there are instances in which your therapist may be compelled to disclose information about you and your treatment. These include:

1. If you present an immediate danger to yourself or others, your therapist may disclose information necessary to assure your safety or the safety of others. This may include disclosing information necessary to facilitate emergency room assessment, ambulance transport, hospitalization or contacting family members or others.
2. If you communicate to your therapist an actual threat of violence against an identified victim, or if you have a history of physical violence and your therapist believes you present an immediate danger to an identifiable victim, then she/he has a duty to warn the victim and local law enforcement to take precautions to provide protection to the victim.
3. Your therapist may be ordered to disclose confidential information about you in a court proceeding in which your mental or emotional condition is introduced as an element of the claim or defense. She may also be ordered by a court to disclose information from an evaluation it has requested.
4. Your therapist may disclose confidential information in a proceeding against her in a malpractice action or license revocation proceeding in which this information is necessary or relevant to her claim.
5. Your therapist may disclose the nature of services, dates of treatment, amounts due and other relevant financial information in order to collect fees owed by you.

Client signature _____

Date _____