

# CONSENT TO TRANSMIT EMAIL

HIPAA stands for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. HIPAA was passed by the U.S. government in 1996 in order to establish privacy and security protections for health information. Information stored on our computers is encrypted. Most popular email services (ex. Hotmail®, Gmail®, Yahoo®) do not utilize encrypted email. When we send you an email, or you send us an email, the information that is sent is not encrypted. This means a third party may be able to access the information and read it since it is transmitted over the Internet. In addition, once the email is received by you, someone may be able to access your email account and read it. Email is a very popular and convenient way to communicate for a lot of people, so in their latest modification to the HIPAA act, the federal government provided guidance on email and HIPAA. The information is available in a pdf (page 5634) on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website [http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR\\_2013\\_01\\_25/pdf/2013\\_01073.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR_2013_01_25/pdf/2013_01073.pdf). The guidelines state that if a client has been made aware of the risks of unencrypted email, and that same client provides consent to receive health information via email, then a health entity may send that client personal medical information via unencrypted email.

By signing your name below, you imply that you understand the risks of unencrypted email and do hereby give permission to Heather L. Rice, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, PLLC to send you personal health information via unencrypted email. We may still, on occasion, send you emails that do not contain personal health information.

**If you do not wish to receive personal health information via email, do not sign this form.**

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Client Signature

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Date