



Privacy of Information/General-Informed Consent

All aspects of your involvement as a client of Yvonne Champion, LCSW/Champion Counseling, will be held in utmost confidence. Personal identifiable information regarding clients is not discussed or disclosed to outside parties without prior written permission of the client(s).

Disclosure: Champion Counseling maintains confidentiality with Federal and State regulations. However, therapists are ethically &/or legally required to disclose confidential information to the appropriate authorities in certain kinds of circumstances:

1. If a client indicates that s/he or another person may be a danger to his/herself or others.
2. In the case of apparent, suspected or potential child/elder abuse or neglect.
3. If clients report sexual abuse by a Regulated Health Care Professional.
4. When a court issues a summons for records or testimony.
5. If others need information in order to cope with a bona fide emergency.

Consultation: It is standard practice that your therapist may consult another colleague in order to improve clinical and ethical standards of service provided to you. All efforts are made to ensure privacy and confidentiality of client information.

Email and Texting: It is very important to be aware that email and texting communication can be relatively easy to access by unauthorized people and hence can compromise privacy and confidentiality. Yvonne Champion's computers are equipped with a firewall, a virus protection and a password, and all confidential information is backed up regularly. If you decide to avoid or limit the use of any or all communication devices, such as email, cell-phone, texts, or faxes, notify your therapist. If you communicate confidential or highly private information via email or text, your therapist will assume that you have made an informed decision and will be viewed as your agreement to take the risk that such communication may be intercepted. Yvonne Champion will not engage in-depth to your email or text if therapy-related issues are discussed. It will be discussed at your next session. Please be aware that emails and texts are part of your medical record. Do not use email for emergencies. Please be aware that due to computer or network problems, emails may not be deliverable and that Yvonne Champion may not check emails daily. If needing a response that day, please call your therapist.

Client records: They are maintained for a period of 5-years from the date of last contact. Records are then destroyed. Other than the circumstances listed above, your therapist cannot converse, write or give any information about you or your circumstance without your written informed consent to do so.

Although the goal of your therapy is to improve your circumstance(s), at times clients can feel worse as they confront the issues that are troubling them. If this is your experience, please discuss with your therapist. Clients are free to discontinue counseling at any time. It is highly advisable to discuss the reason for considering discontinuation with your therapist prior to acting on the decision.

My signature below shows that I have read, understand & agree with all of these statements. I give consent for services with Yvonne Champion, LCSW/Champion Counseling.

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complaints: I understand that I may make a complaint about my treatment and rights without such complaints being used against me. If I have a complaint against a licensed staff member, I may grieve directly to the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners – Complaints Management and Investigative Section P.O. Box 141369 Austin, Texas 78714-1369 1-800- 942-5540