

## Service Agreement for Collateral Participants

I want to thank you for accepting the invitation to assist in \_\_\_\_\_ psychotherapeutic treatment. Your participation is important and is sometimes essential to the success of the treatment. This document is to inform you about the risks, rights and responsibilities of your participation.

### WHO IS COLLATERAL?

Collateral is usually a spouse, family member or friend, who participates in therapy to assist the identified client. Collateral is not considered to be a client and is not the subject of the treatment. Counselors have certain legal and ethical responsibilities to clients and the privacy of the relationship is given legal protection. My primary responsibility is to my client and I must place their interests first. You also have less privacy protection.

### THE ROLE OF COLLATERALS IN COUNSELING

The role of collateral will vary greatly. For example, a collateral might attend only one session, either alone or with the client to provide information to the therapist and never attend another session. In another case, collateral might attend most or all of the client's therapy sessions and his/her relationship with the client may be a focus of the treatment. We will discuss your specific role in the treatment at our first meeting and at other appropriate times.

### BENEFITS AND RISKS

Psychotherapy often engenders intense emotional experiences, and your participation may engender strong anxiety or emotional distress. It may also expose or create tension in your relationship with the client. While your participation may result in better understanding of the client or an improved relationship, or may even help in your own growth and development, there is no guarantee that this will be the case. Psychotherapy is a positive experience for many, but it is not helpful to all people.

### MEDICAL RECORDS

No record or chart will be maintained on you in your role as collateral. Notes about you may be entered into the identified client's chart. The client has a right to access the chart and the material contained therein. It is sometimes possible to maintain the privacy of our communications. If that is your wish, we should discuss it before any information is communicated. You have no right to access that chart without the written consent of the

identified client. You will not carry a diagnosis and there is no individualized treatment plan for you.

**FEES**

As collateral you are not responsible for paying for my professional services unless you are financially responsible for the client or if we agree to this in advance and in writing.

I understand and agree to the terms of this agreement.

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Signature

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Date