

Disclosure Statement
Griselle M. Feisthammel
Student Mental Health Counseling Intern

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your counselor. This information is designed to inform you about my educational background and training as a student intern, and to ensure that you understand our professional relationship. I am committed to providing you with quality, professional counseling, and your questions or comments are encouraged.

Education and Student Training

I am in the process of receiving my Masters of Arts degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling with a Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of South Florida. I received my Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Florida in 2016. As a student intern I have completed core courses in counseling prior to beginning my clinical experience. A few examples include courses in ethics, theories of counseling, counseling techniques, dynamics of marriage and family therapy, and other courses relevant to my specialization in mental health counseling. The practicum and internship courses are a developmental sequence in which I apply my knowledge under intensive supervision.

Therapeutic Relationship

Your counseling services will be based on a relationship characterized by trust and respect. The counselor and client will work together to both identify goals for counseling and to move toward meeting those goals. The counseling sessions may include an exploration of thoughts, feelings, personal history, communication styles, attitudes and beliefs about self and others, and personal development needs. I, the counselor-in-training, will receive supervision from two sources: a licensed counselor at the setting which the counseling takes place and a USF faculty member who is a licensed counselor and has training in supervision.

Client's Rights and Responsibilities

Clients have the right to receive counseling in which the individual's dignity, worth, and uniqueness are respected. I will provide you with quality informed services that are offered under close supervision. However, the success of the therapeutic relationship depends on your willingness to be open and involved in the process. As a student intern, I may ask you if I can audio record some of your counseling sessions (which will not hold any identifying information on who the client is). The recording of sessions is something that will be further discussed with you and you have the right to allow or to refuse this process to take place. All recordings, if made, will be destroyed at the end of the semester in which services are provided. If you agree to this process, which will serve my training needs, I will ask for your written consent. Finally, clients have the right to receive services that are confidential.

Confidentiality

I regard the information you share with me with the greatest of respect, so I want to be as clear as possible about how it will be handled. Generally, my supervisor (Diane Brantley), group supervision members (if you signed the audio recording consent form), and I will tell no one what you tell me. The privacy and confidentiality of our conversations, and my records, are your privilege and are protected by state law and my profession's ethical principles, in all but few

circumstances. If for some reason there is a need to share information in your record, you will first be consulted and asked to sign a release of information form authorizing a transfer of information. The form will specify the information, which you give permission to release to the other party and will limit the time period during which the information may be released. You can revoke your permission at any time by simply giving written notice.

There are several important circumstances in which my supervisor and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, legally and/or ethically: (1) when we believe you intend to harm yourself or another person; (2) when we believe a child or vulnerable adult (elder or a person with a disability) has been or is in danger of being abused or neglected, and (3) in rare circumstances, professional counselors can be ordered by a judge to release information. Otherwise, my supervisor and I will not tell anyone anything about your treatment, diagnosis, history, or even that you are a client without your full knowledge and consent.

In the state of Florida, children and adolescents less than 18 years of age cannot independently consent to or receive mental health treatment without parental consent. While privacy in psychotherapy is very important, particularly with adolescents, parental involvement is also essential to successful treatment and this may require some private information be shared with parents. It is my policy not to provide treatment to a child under the age of 18 unless he/she agrees that we can share general information about the progress of his/her treatment and attendance at scheduled sessions. Before giving parents any information, I will discuss the matter with the minor if possible. However, if an issue arrives under either (1) or (2) we will do everything in our power to protect the individual at risk if that requires breaking the minor's confidence whether to parents or the authorities, we will take that action.

Explanation of Dual Relationship

Although our sessions may be very intimate psychologically and spiritually, it is important for you to be assured that we have a professional relationship rather than a social one. Our contact will be limited to sessions you will arrange with me. Because I desire to respect your privacy, I will not speak to you in public, unless you first speak to me. Because ours is a professional relationship, I cannot accept gifts having monetary value.

Length of Sessions

My services will be rendered in a professional manner consistent with accepted ethical standards. Sessions are 45-50 minutes long. The remaining 10 to 15 minutes of the session hour are reserved for you therapist to complete session notes. We will schedule your sessions by mutual agreement.

Cancellations and Rescheduling

Your appointment time is reserved exclusively for you, please let me serve you better by keeping scheduled appointments. If you are unable to keep an appointment, please call my supervisor Diane Brantley at 941-780-9030 to cancel and/or reschedule **at least 24 hours in advance**. The full session fee is charged (\$0) for appointments missed and for appointments cancelled less than 24 hours in advance. To be clear, if I do not receive 24 hours notice, you will be responsible for paying the full session fee (\$0), except in cases of emergency.

Telephone Availability

Being available to you is important to me; therefore, you may leave a *non-emergency* message on my supervisor's, Diane Brantley, phone at 941-780-9030. In the event that your call is not answered, please leave a message and Ms. Brantley will make every reasonable effort to return your call within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays. Please note that Ms. Brantley will not answer the phone when she is with a client. If your situation is an **emergency**, you should **call 911 at any time of day or night**. **Crisis assistance** is also available by calling or going to the **Bayside Center for Behavioral Health of Sarasota Memorial Hospital at 1-800-764-8477 or 941-917-7760**.

In Case of an Emergency

I do not provide emergency services, though I certainly will make every attempt to be available to you as soon as possible should a crisis occur. In case of emergency, you should **call 911 at any time of day or night**. **Crisis assistance** is also available by calling or going to the **Bayside Center for Behavioral Health of Sarasota Memorial Hospital at 1-800-764-8477 or 941-917-7760**.

Vacation and Illness

From time to time I will be out of contact due to such things as trainings, vacations, emergencies, illness, etc. Psychotherapy is a uniquely personal service and therefore therapy may be briefly interrupted. I will give you advance notice whenever possible. In the event that an emergency arises while I am unavailable, please follow the emergency procedures outlined above.

Complaint Procedures

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of my work, please let me know immediately. I want to provide you with the best counseling services possible. If you think you have been treated unfairly or unethically, by me or any other counselor, and cannot resolve the problem with me, you may contact Rev. Rick Howell, Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast at 941-926-2959, or 3224 Bee Ridge Rad, Sarasota, Florida 34239. You can submit a complaint or receive clarification of your rights from Rev. Rick Howell.

I look forward to our continued meetings and to learning more about you, your hopes, and aspirations and how we can work toward making them a reality.

Please sign and date both copies of this form, and return one to me.