

## Health Information and Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA)

### CLARIFICATION OF HIGHER PRIVACY STANDARDS

The HIPAA (Health Information and Portability and Accountability Act) federal guidelines refer to the privacy and security regulations concerning the protection of your health information. However, Psychologists and Counselors must also follow professional standards, state licensing boards, and related state and federal laws. As professional psychologists and counselors we will follow our professional regulations when they are more restrictive (provide greater privacy) than the federal HIPAA regulations. For example, under section "IV Examples of Disclosures for Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations", we will not disclose your health information without obtaining your prior authorization (see subsections "1. Treatment, 6. Directory, 7. Communication with Family, 16. Military, or 18. Abuse or Neglect") unless a person's life is at risk, when required by law (reported child or elder abuse or neglect, national security risk, or by court order). Counseling professionals in this Center can also consult with each other to insure

Notice in the future and make new Notice provisions effective for all PHI we maintain. Copies of revisions are available from this health care provider and on the University's website.



## 6. Further Disclosure of PHI

health care provider may disclose to a family member, other relative, close friend, or other elected representative health information which is vital to your continuation of care or necessary for payment purposes. Once disclosed this information may not be re-released without your authorization. A separate authorization may be required for the disclosure of mental health records/psychotherapy notes.

8. Research, Statistics, & Assessments – We may disclose your PHI for purposes of research, statistics, and quality improvement assessments once a committee has determined that your privacy will not be compromised. All PHI must be de-identified so that it does not contain any identifiable information about you before it can be used for this purpose. If your PHI is used for this purpose we can provide you, at your request, with the PHI Disclosure Tracking Log that indicates how and where your PHI was released.
9. Marketing – We may contact you to provide appointment reminders, information about

19. Other PHI Disclosures – Any other use or disclosure of your PHI requires your written authorization. PHI that is disclosed, with your written authorization, to an agency that is not covered under these federal regulations (e.g. office or disability determination services) will no longer be protected under the safeguards of these regulations.

1 Health care includes, but is not limited to: preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance, or palliative care and counseling, service assessment, or procedure with respect to the physical or mental condition, or functional status of an individual or that affects the structure or function of the body; and sale or dispensing of a drug, device, equipment, or other item in accordance with a prescription.