

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices
Office of Dr. Lawrence E. Hedges, Ph.D., Psy.D., ABPP

I Value Your Privacy! I have always maintained strict confidentiality in my psychology practice but now the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that I notify you in detail of exactly how I maintain your privacy.

I have a legal duty to safeguard your Protected Health Information (PHI) which includes all identifying information and all other basic information you have provided me with. Under HIPAA this protected information may be disclosed to other licensed health professionals, insurance companies, and other HIPAA compliant agencies and professionals for the purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations without your prior written authorization. PHI may also be released as provided for by various public protection laws. Further, I may provide PHI to family, friends, or others that you indicate are involved in your health care unless you specifically object. All other uses and disclosures require your prior written authorization.

Regarding your PHI you have the right to request limits on uses and disclosures except for those I am legally required or allowed to make. You have the right to indicate how I send PHI to you, to see and get copies of your PHI, to obtain a list of disclosures I have made, correct or update your PHI, to receive this notice by email and the right to complain to the federal government if you feel I have violated your rights. I am the Privacy Officer for my practice so you may address all questions to me.

"Psychotherapy Notes" defined by HIPAA include notes of personal discussions and other personal communications to me and are "for the exclusive use of the treating professional." No one may have access to these notes but myself.

You should know that any electronically stored or transmitted personal information about you is protected by passwords and/or encryptions. HIPAA requires that I maintain strict security controls over all PHI and Psychotherapy Notes. For further details on HIPAA regulations you may check the websites of the American Psychological Association and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, two professional organizations to which I belong.

I have received a copy of these privacy policies and have had the opportunity to ask questions.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____