

Private Practice Social Media Policy

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This document outlines my office policies related to use of Social Media. It explains how I conduct myself on the Internet as a mental health professional and how you can expect me to respond to various interactions that may occur between us on the Internet. I encourage you to bring up any questions about my policies when we meet. As technology is constantly evolving, this policy may be updated from time to time. If that occurs, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and provide you with a copy of the updated policy.

Friending

To protect your confidentiality and our respective privacies, I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc). It is important to maintain appropriate boundaries for our therapeutic work together. The office does not have a Facebook page. As of this time I do not publish blogs or post on Twitter.

Interacting

Please do not use messaging on Social Networking sites (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter) to contact me. These sites are not secure and I may not read these messages in a timely fashion. Do not use Wall postings, @replies, or other means of engaging with me in public online if we have already established a client/therapist relationship. Not only could engaging with me this way compromise your confidentiality, but it is also possible that these exchanges could become part of your legal medical record. Please also do not use SMS (mobile phone text messaging) to interact with me regarding clinical matters. The policy will later outline the potential narrow use of text messaging for appointment reminders or scheduling, after a thorough review of risks and benefits.

Use of Search Engines

It is NOT a regular part of my practice to search for clients on Google or Facebook or other search engines. Extremely rare exceptions *may* be made in times of crisis. If I have reason to suspect that you are in danger and you have not been in touch with me via our usual means (coming to appointments, phone, or email), there *might* be an instance in which using a search engine (to find you, or someone close to you, or check recent status updates) becomes necessary as part of ensuring your welfare. These are unusual situations, and if I ever resort to such means, I will fully document it and discuss it with you when we next meet.

Google Reader

I do not follow current or former clients on Google Reader and I do not use Google Reader to share articles. If there are things that you want to share with me that you feel are relevant to your treatment (news items or things that you have created), I encourage you to bring these items to your session(s).

Business Review Sites

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You may find my psychology practice on sites such as Yelp, Healthgrades, Yahoo Local, Bing, or other places which list businesses. Some of these sites include forums in which users rate their providers and add reviews. Many of these sites have added listings without our consent, creation, or monitoring. If you should find my listing on any of these sites, please know that my listing is NOT a request for a testimonial, rating, or endorsement from you as my client.

The American Psychological Association's Ethics Code states under Principle 5.05 that it is unethical for psychologists to solicit testimonials. Of course, you have a right to express yourself on any site you wish. However, due to confidentiality, I cannot respond to any review on any of these sites whether it is positive or negative. I urge you to take steps to protect your privacy. You should also be aware that if you are using these sites to communicate indirectly with me about your feelings regarding our work, there is a good chance that I may never see it.

I hope that you will discuss your reactions to our work together directly with me. This can be an important part of therapy, even if we ultimately decide that we are not a good fit with one another. While I cannot discuss our work together, you are welcome to tell anyone you wish that I'm your therapist or how you feel about the treatment that I have provided to you, in any forum you wish.

If you decide to write something on a business review site, I hope you will keep in mind that you may be sharing personally revealing information in a public forum. I urge you to create a pseudonym that is not linked to your regular email address or friend networks for your own privacy and protection.

If you feel I have done something harmful or unethical and you do not feel comfortable discussing it with me or my office staff, you can contact the licensing board to review the services I have provided.

Oregon Board of Psychological Examiners/3218 Pringle Rd. SE, Suite 130, Salem OR 97302-6309
oregon.bpe@state.or.us/Phone:503-378-4154/Fax:503-374-1904/

Location-Based Services

You should be aware of the privacy issues related to using location-based services on your mobile phone. I do not place my practice as a check-in location on various sites (such as Foursquare, Gowalla, Loopt, etc.). However, if you have GPS tracking enabled on your device, it is possible that others may surmise that you are a therapy client due to regular weekly check-ins at my office. Please be aware of this risk if you are intentionally "checking-in" from my office or if you have a passive LBS app enabled on your phone.

Email

I prefer using email only to arrange or modify appointments, or to discuss billing matters. Please do NOT email me content related to your therapy sessions, as unencrypted email is not completely secure or confidential. If you choose to communicate with my office by email, be aware that all emails are retained in the logs of your and my Internet service providers. While it is unlikely that someone will be looking at these logs, they are, in theory, available to be read by the system administrator of the Internet service providers. Other vulnerabilities of email include, but are not limited to, email communication with my office being inadvertently read by your friends, family, employer, or others who share your home, computer, or workspace. If you correspond with this office via your work email address, you should know that your employer's official email policy may allow them to review your emails. There are also potential threats if you are in an unsafe relationship and your messages are intercepted by someone who could harm you.

You should also know that any emails I receive from you and any responses that I send to you may become a part of your legal records. Other threats may include policies and practices of technology

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companies and vendors such as tailored marketing derived from email communications. Also, while the office checks phone messages frequently during the day when the office is open, we don't check email as regularly. It is not the fastest way to reach me or my office staff. Emergency issues must come through the office phone or the answering service.

Texting

My office staff has the ability to schedule appointments and send reminders via text if you wish. As with email, this is unsecured/unencrypted correspondence, and like email it can be reviewed by the service providers or be read by an unauthorized third party if your phone were misplaced or stolen. Also like email, no clinical information whatsoever should be communicated by text. It is also not the most expedient way to get information to me. Emergency issues must come through the office phone or the answering service.

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received and read this policy, and had the opportunity to discuss concerns.

Patient Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Relationship to patient (if other than self): _____

Knowing the potential risks, I choose to receive non-clinical digital correspondence from Giblin Consulting, Inc./the office of Markham S. Giblin, PH.D., Licensed Psychologist via (initial any that apply):

_____ (initials) **EMAIL** email address(es): _____

_____ (initials) **TEXT MESSAGE** text number(s): _____

Please also indicate your order of preference for receiving routine messages, such as appointment reminders:

Please label 1, 2, and 3 or N/A if you prefer not to receive messages by a particular method. Thank you

_____ Phone voicemail at _____ (phone number)

Is this home, cell, or work phone? (*please circle one*)

_____ Text Message to _____ (phone number)

_____ Email to _____ (email address)