

# TURNING POINT PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, LLC

## STATEMENT of LIMITS of PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Turning Point Psychotherapy Associates, LLC (TPPA) believes the protection of client information is of primary importance and thus maintains strict confidentiality standards. We employ only those persons who maintain professional standards of confidentiality, including the protection of your personal health information (PHI) record. Our clinicians and contractors are subject to standards that contain strict mandates regarding confidentiality, including the maintenance of your records which are stored and maintained in secured files, with controlled access.

No records of treatment will be released outside of TPPA without specific written permission from you. There are, however, some unusual circumstances under which TPPA **may release treatment information without your authorization**. These are:

- An emergency involving imminent danger of harm to yourself or to others (suicidal or homicidal).
- An audit or program evaluation by qualified personnel representing an insurance carrier.
- A court order.
- Physical and/or sexual abuse of a minor.
- Abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment of an older adult.
- Use, creation or dissemination of child pornography.
- If a crime is threatened or committed at the office of TPPA or against any of our staff.
- If a client is employed by a company that has additional exceptions to confidentiality; i.e., safety-sensitive positions and reporting of substance abuse.
- If a government agency is requiring the information for health oversight activities.
- If you or your legal representative files a complaint or lawsuit against TPPA, we may disclose relevant information about you in order to defend TPPA and its practitioners.
- Worker's compensation claims.

### **Duty to Warn and Protect:**

The duty to warn and protect overrides the usual right to confidentiality. If a therapist believes that a client represents a threat to self or others, the therapist shall attempt to warn the client's designated emergency contact of potential self-harm and/or the potential victim in a timely manner. In such a case, the police may be contacted. In any life-threatening situation, any relevant information obtained during the initial evaluation, or from ongoing treatment, can be released.

### **PA Child Protective Service Law Reporting Requirements:**

If there is reason to suspect, in the judgment of a TPPA practitioner, that a child under 18 years of age is or has been abused, the practitioner is mandated by law to report those suspicions to the authority or government agency vested to conduct child abuse investigations. TPPA practitioners are required to make such reports, even if he or she does not see the child in a professional capacity.

Furthermore, TPPA practitioners are mandated to report suspected child abuse if anyone age 14 or older tells the practitioner that he or she has committed child abuse, even if the victim is no longer in danger.

All TPPA practitioners are mandated to report suspected child abuse if anyone tells the practitioner that he or she *knows* of any child who is currently being abused, even if the practitioner does not see the child in a professional capacity.

All TPPA practitioners are mandated to report use, creation or dissemination of child pornography.

If you have any questions about limits to confidentiality and mandated reporting laws, please discuss them with your practitioner.