**Stacy Monaghan, LMFT**

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Telehealth Policies A and B for Stacy Monaghan, LMFT

to be used only in California by client’s who are only in California

The purposes of Telehealth Policy A are:

* To promote a quality telehealth experience for the client and practitioner.
* To maintain a continuum of care.
* To address the actions that must be taken by the Licensee Stacy Monaghan, LMFT upon initiating telehealth services in accordance with 1815.5 (c) of Title 16 of California’s Board of Behavioral Sciences.

Offering services via telehealth creates some unique questions and challenges not encountered in traditional face-to-face therapy situations.

To address these, the Title 16 amendments define certain actions that Licensee Stacy Monaghan. LMFT must take when initiating telehealth services with a client for the first time. These are as follows:

* Documenting informed consent in accordance with BPC §2290.5
* Informing the client of potential risks and benefits of telehealth.
* Ensuring the client is given Stacy Monaghan, LMFT’s license number MFC43990; and
* Ensuring the client has written emergency procedures near his or her location if a crisis arises when Stacy Monaghan, LMFT is not available.

Policy A Statement Overview

The goal of this section is to assure you that Stacy Monaghan, LMFT is aware that therapy via telehealth has some differences from face-to-face therapy. The electronic communication medium may have certain nuances (technology failure, need for specialized electronic security systems, less visibility of verbal cues) that do not exist with face-to-face therapy. In addition, online interaction can be more anonymous, so it is important to ensure the client obtains Stacy Monaghan, LMFT’s License number of MFC43990 so that they have the ability to verify the identity. Finally, if there is an emergency, Stacy Monaghan, LMFT may be less familiar with the resources in the client’s area, and therefore it is important for Stacy Monaghan, LMFT to become aware of and document, this information. Requiring these actions upon initiation of telehealth services ensures that both the client and Stacy Monaghan, LMFT are informed about differences in telehealth interactions, and increases transparency for the client, thus enhancing consumer protection.

The purpose of Telehealth Policy B is:

* To address the actions that must be taken by Stacy Monaghan, LMFT each time she performs telehealth services in accordance to 1815.5 (d) of Title 16 of California’s Board of Behavioral Sciences.

The goal of this section defines what must happen each and every time Stacy Monaghan, LMFT performs telehealth with a client. They are as follows:

* Verbally obtain and document the client’s full name and address of present location.
* Assess whether or not the client is appropriate for telehealth.
* Utilize industry best practices to ensure client confidentiality.
* Ensure that the communication medium is secure.

Policy B Statement Overview

This section seeks to protect the consumer of telehealth therapy services by requiring Stacy Monaghan, LMFT to address, at each telehealth session, key situations which could change from session to session due to environmental factors. Verbal identification and documentation of the client’s identity and location protects the client’s personal information, and ensures that if an emergency arises, Stacy Monaghan, LMFT knows where the client can be located. Assessing appropriateness for telehealth is crucial to the situation, because the client’s mental health may change from session to session. For example, if the client is experiencing severe mental distress, Stacy Monaghan, LMFT may decide that in her professional opinion, it is in the client’s best interest to seek face-to-face therapy services, or emergency resources. Requiring Stacy Monaghan, LMFT to utilize industry standards to ensure confidentiality ensures that for each session, her actions are always consistent with maintaining the confidentiality of the client’s information, and ensures that she is always using the appropriate technology to prevent electronic communications from being compromised.