

Psychotherapy Practice of Leah Chalofsky, MFT #83622

PO Box 12549, San Francisco, CA 94112

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

I am required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information (“PHI”), which includes information that can be used to identify you that I have created or received about your past, present, or future health or condition, the provision of health care to you, or the payment of this health care. I must provide you with this Notice of Privacy Practices (“Notice”). I must abide by the terms of this Notice, and I must notify you if a breach of your unsecured PHI occurs. I can change the terms of this Notice, and such changes will apply to all information I have about you. The new Notice will be available upon request and in my office. Except for the specific purposes set forth below, I will use and disclose your PHI only with your written authorization (“Authorization”). It is your right to revoke such Authorization at any time by giving me written notice of your revocation.

Uses (Inside Practice) and Disclosures (Outside Practice) Relating to Treatment, Payment, or Health Care Operations Do Not Require Your Written Consent.

I can use and disclose your PHI without your Authorization for the following reasons:

1. For your treatment. I can use and disclose your PHI to treat you, which may include disclosing your PHI to another health care professional. For example, if you are being treated by a physician or a psychiatrist, I can disclose your PHI to him or her to help coordinate your care, although my preference is for you to give me an Authorization to do so.
2. To obtain payment for your treatment. I can use and disclose your PHI to bill and collect payment for the treatment and services provided by me to you. For example, I might send your PHI to your insurance company to get paid for the health care services that I have provided to you, although my preference is for you to give me an Authorization to do so.
3. For health care operations. I can use and disclose your PHI for purposes of conducting health care operations pertaining to my practice, including contacting you when necessary. For example, I may need to disclose your PHI to my attorney to obtain advice about complying with applicable laws.

Certain Uses and Disclosures Also Do Not Require Your Authorization.

I can use and disclose your PHI without your consent or authorization for the following reasons:

1. For my use in training or supervising other mental health practitioners to help them improve their skills in group, joint, family, or individual counseling or therapy.
2. For my use in defending myself in legal proceedings instituted by you.
3. For use by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to investigate my compliance with HIPAA.
4. When disclosure is required by state or federal law, and the use or disclosure complies with and is limited to the relevant requirements of such law. For example, I may have to make a disclosure to applicable government officials when a law requires me to report information about victims of abuse or neglect.
5. For public health activities, including reporting suspected child, elder, or dependent adult abuse, or preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety.
6. For judicial and administrative proceedings, including responding to a court or administrative order, although my preference is to obtain an Authorization from you before doing so. I may also have to use or disclose your PHI in response to a subpoena.
7. For law enforcement purposes, including reporting crimes occurring on my premises.
8. To coroners or medical examiners, when such individuals are performing duties authorized by law.
9. Specialized government functions, including ensuring the proper execution of military missions; protecting the President of the United States; conducting intelligence or counter-intelligence operations; or, helping to ensure the safety of those working within or housed in correctional institutions.
10. For workers' compensation purposes. Although my preference is to obtain an Authorization from you, I may provide your PHI in order to comply with workers' compensation laws.
11. Appointment reminders and health related benefits or services. I may use and disclose your PHI to contact you to remind you that you have an appointment with me. I may also use and disclose your PHI to tell you about treatment alternatives, or other health care services or benefits that I offer.

Certain Uses and Disclosures Require You to Have the Opportunity to Object.

1. Disclosures to family, friends, or others. I may provide your PHI to a family member, friend, or other person that you indicate is involved in your care or the payment for your health care, unless you object in whole or in part. The opportunity to consent may be obtained retroactively in emergency situations.
- Other Uses and Disclosures Require Your Prior Written Authorization. In any other situation not described in the above sections, I will need your written authorization before using or disclosing any of your PHI. If you choose to sign an authorization to disclose your PHI, you can later revoke such authorization in writing to stop any future uses and disclosures of your PHI by me.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PHI

You have the following rights with respect to your PHI:

1. The Right to Request Limits on Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI. You have the right to ask me not to use or disclose certain PHI for treatment, payment, or health care operations purposes. I am not required to agree to your request, and I may say “no” if I believe it would affect your health care. However, be advised, that you may not limit the uses and disclosures that I am legally required to make.
2. The Right to Request Restrictions for Out-of-Pocket Expenses Paid for in Full. You have the right to request restrictions on disclosures of your PHI to health plans for payment or health care operations purposes if the PHI pertains solely to a health care item or a health care service that you have paid for out-of-pocket in full.
3. The Right to Choose How I Send PHI to You. You have the right to ask me to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address, and I will agree to all reasonable requests.
4. The Right to See and Get Copies of Your PHI. In most cases, you have the right to get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record and other information that I have about you. I will provide you with a copy of your record, or a summary of it, if you agree to receive a summary, within 30 days of receiving your written request, and I may charge a reasonable, cost based fee for doing so. In certain situations, I may deny your request. If I do, I will tell you, in writing, my reasons for the denial and explain your right to have my denial reviewed.
5. The Right to Receive a List of the Disclosures I Have Made. You have the right to receive a list of instances, i.e., an Accounting of Disclosures, in which I have disclosed your PHI. The list will not include disclosures made for my treatment, payment, or health care operations; disclosures made to you; disclosures you authorized; disclosures incident to a use or disclosure permitted or required by the federal privacy rule; disclosures made for national security or intelligence; disclosures made to correctional institutions or law enforcement personnel. I will respond to your request for an accounting of disclosures within 60 days of receiving your request. The list I will give you will include disclosures made in the last six years unless you request a shorter time. I will provide the list to you at no charge, but if you make more than one request in the same year, I will charge you a reasonable cost based fee for each additional request.
6. The Right to Correct or Update Your PHI. If you believe that there is a mistake in your PHI, or that a piece of important information is missing from your PHI, you have the right to request that I correct the existing information or add the missing information. I may say “no” to your request, but I will tell you why in writing within 60 days of receiving your request.
7. The Right to Get a Paper or Electronic Copy of this Notice. You have the right to get a paper copy of this Notice, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice via e-mail.

HOW TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MY PRIVACY PRACTICES

If you think I may have violated your privacy rights, you may file a complaint with me, as the Privacy Officer for my practice, and my address and phone number are: PO Box 12549, San Francisco, CA, 94112; (415) 305-1228.

You can also file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by:

1. Sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201;
2. Calling 1-877-696-6775; or,
3. Visiting www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints.

I will not retaliate against you if you file a complaint about my privacy practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS NOTICE

This notice went into effect on September 20, 2013

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Privacy Notice

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), you have certain rights regarding the use and disclosure of your protected health information. By checking the box below, you are acknowledging that you have received a copy of HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices.

BY CLICKING ON THE CHECKBOX BELOW I AM AGREEING THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.