

## **THERAPIST-PATIENT ARBITRATION AGREEMENT**

I agree to address any grievances I may have directly with my therapist, James Staunton, MFT, immediately. If we cannot settle the matter between us, then a jointly agreed-upon outside consultation will be sought. If not, an arbitration process will be initiated, which will be considered as a complete resolution and legally binding decision under state law. NOTICE: BY SIGNING THIS CONTRACT YOU ARE AGREEING TO HAVE ANY ISSUE OF MEDICAL or psychological MALPRACTICE DECIDED BY NEUTRAL ARBITRATION AND YOU ARE GIVING UP YOUR RIGHT TO A JURY OR COURT TRIAL. SEE ARTICLE ONE OF THIS CONTRACT.

Article 1: It is understood that any dispute as to medical malpractice, that is as to whether any medical services rendered under this contract were unnecessary or unauthorized or were improperly, negligently or incompetently rendered, will be determined by submission to arbitration as provided by California law, and not by lawsuit or resort to court process except as [state] law provides for judicial review or arbitration proceedings. Both parties to this contract, by entering into it, are giving up their constitutional right to have any such dispute decided in a court of law before a jury, and instead are accepting the use of arbitration. Any arbitration process will be considered as a complete resolution and legally binding decision. The client will be responsible for the costs of this process. In agreeing to treatment, you are consenting to the above identified grievance procedures. This agreement constitutes the entirety of our professional contract. Any changes must be signed by both parties. I have a right to keep a copy of this contract.

Effective as of first date of services.

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Client name printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Therapist Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTICE TO CLIENTS

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice of marriage and family therapists. You may contact the board online at [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov), or by calling (916) 574-7830.

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**Telehealth Only**

Phone: (619) 203-6307      Fax: (855) 274-1639