

**Scott Miller, Psy.D.
Psychological Services**

Psychotherapy and the Psychotherapeutic Relationship

1. Psychological services have some risks as well as some benefits. Dr. Miller uses a variety of interventions within therapy, including analysis of interpersonal relationships, skill-building, changing thought patterns, confrontation, and homework, among other things. Difficult issues and feelings may be encountered during these procedures, and sometimes there can be painful repercussions as a result of a changed perspective and/or lifestyle (e.g., moods, relationships). I can ask about the services I am receiving at any time.
2. I realize that this is outpatient treatment, and Dr. Miller is not currently available for nighttime crisis calls. If I am experiencing a crisis in which I may do harm to myself or others, I agree to go to the nearest hospital emergency room or call 9-1-1.
3. The way we (Dr. Miller and myself) understand and address my concerns may be significantly influenced by our worldviews. We will likely discuss my worldview and what implications it may have about my struggles and my healing.
4. Unless otherwise arranged, two months of no contact will be considered reason for discharge from therapy with Dr. Miller. I can terminate therapy at any time, though expectations for 24-hour notice still apply (see below regarding no-shows).
5. I understand that marital and family therapy are not intended for the manipulation or coercion of others. Rather, while addressing marital and family issues, I will learn to assume my own responsibilities and more respectfully articulate my expectations to others. Dr. Miller will help me use more healthy communication and identify communication that is not helpful. Sometimes this means he will interrupt me and/or confront me when my communication becomes harmful.
6. Releases of your information beyond normal healthcare operations typically require your (or your guardian's) written authorization. Additional authorization may be required when the information pertains to more than one person.

Regarding Legal and Court-Related Activities

7. I will notify Dr. Miller as soon as possible if I am involved in, or anticipate being involved in, legal or court activities. My involvement in such proceedings could affect our work together. Psychotherapy is not a substitute for an evaluation; neither is it an appropriate method to obtain evaluative results. If I need an evaluation Dr. Miller will assist me in finding a provider that offers this service.
8. I understand that Dr. Miller will not be a party to any legal proceedings on behalf of one client against another client. His responsibilities relate to the achievement of therapy goals—not to address legal issues that require an adversarial approach. Clients entering treatment with Dr. Miller are agreeing to not involve him in legal/court proceedings or attempt to obtain records of treatment for legal/court proceedings when therapy has not adequately resolved family problems. This prevents misuse of your treatment for legal objectives.

Fees

9. Dr. Miller’s reimbursement is largely related to what insurance companies will allow. With the exception of services requiring additional skills and/or time (e.g., the initial session, family therapy), his charges are about \$130/hour. Occasional, brief phone interactions or e-mails are free of charge, but I may be charged for anything over 10 minutes, aggregate, within a given week.

10. Although Dr. Miller and his billing administrator often check into insurance benefits and have a working general knowledge of insurance companies, I recognize that it is ultimately my responsibility to be aware of specific plan provisions within my insurance package. I can reference my own policy handbook and/or call my insurance company with specific questions. **There are some diagnoses that insurance companies only rarely cover**, such as Partner Relational Problem (i.e., *marriage problems*) and Paraphilia (i.e., *sex addictions*). If we primarily focus on these issues, then I understand that I will most likely be paying for therapy out-of-pocket. This may not be clear until after a few sessions.

11. Court appearances demand special fee arrangements. I understand that Dr. Miller must be paid for his time as a professional, regardless of whether a subpoena only summons him to be a witness of fact. I will be sure to pay him a retainer ahead of the scheduled court appearance time, with charges accrued for preparation, travel time, waiting, testimony, and record-keeping. Insurance generally does not cover these costs.

12. I will do my best to notify Dr. Miller of cancellations at least 24 hours in advance of a scheduled appointment. Failures to do so will be subject to a “no-show” fee, which is currently \$80/hr. This also applies when a significant portion of a session is missed due to tardiness. Insurance typically does not reimburse for this.

13. Accounts carried for 30 days or more will be subject to 1 ½ % interest per month. I can contact Dr. Miller or his billing administrator (Cheri Miller, 541-408-4685) to make payment arrangements, if necessary.

A Note on Technology

14. I can interact with Dr. Miller via text and email (541-410-5370; and millerpsyd11@gmail.com), with the knowledge that these modalities are not substitutes for face-to-face therapy. I am also aware that Dr. Miller’s email address is not technically HIPAA-compliant, so use of this modality would indicate my informed consent to proceed nonetheless.

I understand and agree to these statements.

Client Signature

Date

Secondary Client (if applicable), or Guardian

Date

Witness Signature

Date