

**INFORMED CONSENT**

Welcome to Dig Down Deep™ Coaching, Consulting, Counseling. Your first visit to psychotherapy and counseling can feel overwhelming. Please read all this information before the commencement of treatment. Only physically handing this signed document to me in person is an agreement between us.

**PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELING**

The risk includes discussing unpleasant aspects of your life that trigger uncomfortable feelings/emotions and resistance to practicing new behaviors that will help you make an adjustment for change. The benefit includes healthier relationships with yourself and others. There is no guarantee in the outcome.

**ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS**

It is unethical for me to make suggestions or to give advice to you because it disables the therapeutic process. My approach is to lead and guide you to gain the crucial insight and awareness required for you to make your own decisions. It is my responsibility to serve, help, and support you on your journey.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidentiality is the foundation of the therapeutic alliance. I cannot share anything about you without your expressed permission. I will request signed written consent from you if I need to communicate with your doctor, psychiatrist, attorney, judge, parole/probation officer, employer, spouse, relative, or friend.

**MANDATORY EXCEPTIONS TO CONFIDENTIALITY**

I am a Mandated Reporter with a duty to warn and protect others, and myself, from a serious imminent threat of danger; homicide/suicide, suspected child abuse/neglect, elder abuse/neglect, and dependent adult abuse/neglect. I am not mandated to report criminal activity, domestic violence, or HIV/AIDS.

**SUPERVISION AND CONSULTATION**

Your case – assessment, diagnosis, treatment plan, progress notes, discharge plan – may be privately shared with Licensed/Associate Marriage and Family Therapists in supervision/consultation meetings for the purpose of teaching/ learning how to provide more effective and helpful treatment for you.

**NO SECRETS POLICY**

I have a no secrets policy. A secret is a lie; A lie is a secret. Transparency is a cornerstone of psychotherapy. I will always encourage you to be honest with yourself, me, and others in treatment. I will not keep a secret for you, meaning, I will guide you through the process of sharing your secrets/lies.

**HIPAA**

The federal statute - [HIPAA Home | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa) - is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. I do not transmit electronic medical records. You do not have the right to a copy of your “process notes” (contents of our conversations). However, you do have the right to a copy of your “progress notes” (diagnosis, treatment plan, prognosis) unless I have good reason to deny your request.

**INSURANCE**

I do not accept insurance. I provide free counseling to military veterans via [www.giveanhour.org](http://www.giveanhour.org).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**FEE FOR SERVICE – NO REFUND POLICY**

I charge **\$100** per individual (3-sessions, \$240), **\$100** per couple (3-sessions, \$240), and **\$100** per family session (3-sessions, \$240). I charge **\$20** per group therapy session (13-groups, \$260). I charge **\$200** per individual consultation and coaching session. I collect money **ONLY** via [paypal@digdowndeep.com](mailto:paypal@digdowndeep.com).

**APPOINTMENTS**

**I COLLECT PAYMENT BEFORE THE SESSION.** An individual, couple, or family session is **60-MINUTES**. A group session is **90-MINUTES**. Please **ARRIVE 15-MINUTES EARLY**. If you do not cancel or reschedule your appointment within **24-HOURS** – or if you are absent – you will still be charged for the session.

**CONTACTING ME**

I prefer to talk rather than text or email with clients. If I do not answer, I will return your call within the hour. If you are experiencing suicide ideation, please call **988** to speak with the [www.988lifeline.org](http://www.988lifeline.org). You can also text **CONNECT** to **741741** to get help and support from the [www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org).

**DUAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Professional therapy never includes sex. - [Therapy Never Includes Sexual Behavior \(ca.gov\)](http://www.crisistextline.org) - The therapeutic alliance also does not involve business or any other type of exploitive relationship which could impair my objectivity, clinical judgment, or therapeutic effectiveness. I do not accept gifts.

**TERMINATION OF TREATMENT**

Deciding when to conclude therapy can be a sensitive process. We will reflect on your journey through our collaborative treatment plan and review your discharge plan. I reserve the right to decline and/or terminate treatment at any time, particularly if you are not working through your resistance in therapy.

**REFERRAL**

If you, or I, feel unhappy with our alliance, or your progress in treatment, I will ethically give you three referrals to another helping professional. It is vital that you and I both feel comfortable with each other, your goal, the work you are doing, and your progress in psychotherapy and counseling with me.

[Self Empowerment: How to choose a mental health professional \(ca.gov\)](http://www.crisistextline.org)

**ABOUT ME**

I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist #86480 with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences and an Ordained Chaplain-Candidate. I completed 4,000-hours as a Trainee and Registered Intern at Veterans Village of San Diego, Betty Ford Center, The Meadows, and Sierra Tucson. I achieved a Master of Counseling, in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling at University of Phoenix. I earned the Ken Blanchard Executive MBA from Grand Canyon University. I worked in Broadcast Journalism for 15 years in 5 markets. I achieved a BA from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. I honored my mother by proudly serving as her Registered Caregiver 24/7/365 for 11.5-years, at home, in the circle of life, which was the best education and experience of my life.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_