

Canelli Counseling and Consultation PLLC

A. Canelli MA, LMHC

1812 E. Madison Street Suite 206

Seattle WA. 98122

My Private Practice Social Media Policy

This document outlines my office policies related to use of Social Media. Please read it to understand how I conduct myself on the Internet as a mental health professional and how you can expect me to respond to various interactions that may occur between us on the Internet. If you have any questions about anything within this document, I encourage you to bring them up when we meet. As new technology develops and the Internet changes, there may be times when I need to update this policy. If I do so, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy.

One of the newest ethical standards set forth in the 2014 ACA Code of Ethics prohibits counselors from viewing clients' social media presence without first obtaining permission from the client.

In essence, section H.6.c of the ethics code recognizes that a client's social media is personal and private. Just as it would be inappropriate for a clinician to peek in a client's window, it is now generally inappropriate for a clinician to "Facebook stalk" a client. This new standard is also consistent with Washington State standards for all health care professionals. I will not look for you online with out your expressed request and permission.

FRIENDING

I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc). I believe that adding clients as friends or contacts on these sites can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship. If you have questions about this, please bring them up when we meet and we can talk more about it.

INTERACTING

Please do not use messaging on Social Networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, or LinkedIn to contact me. These sites are not secure. Do not use Wall postings, @replies, or other means of engaging with me in public online if we have an already established client/therapist relationship. Engaging with me this way could compromise your confidentiality. It may also create the possibility that these exchanges become a part of your legal medical record and will need to be documented and archived in your chart.

If you need to contact me between sessions, the best way to do so is by phone, at 206-424-4604. Direct email at canelli.ac@gmail.com is second best for quick, administrative issues such as changing appointment times. See the email section below for more information regarding email

interactions. I am now using an email encryption program in order to protect your information and be HIPAA compliant.

USE OF SEARCH ENGINES

It is NOT a regular part of my practice to search for clients on Google or Facebook or other search engines. Extremely rare exceptions *may* be made during times of crisis. If I have a reason to suspect that you are in danger and you have not been in touch with me via our usual means (coming to appointments, phone, or email) there *might* be an instance in which using a search engine (to find you, find someone close to you, or to check on your recent status updates) becomes necessary as part of ensuring your welfare. These are unusual situations and if I ever resort to such means, I will fully document it and discuss it with you when we next meet.

LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

If you used location-based services on your mobile phone, you may wish to be aware of the privacy issues related to using these services. I do not place my practice as a check-in location on. However, if you have GPS tracking enabled on your device, it is possible that others may surmise that you are a therapy client due to regular check-ins at my office on a weekly basis. Please be aware of this risk if you are intentionally “checking in,” from my office.

EMAIL

I prefer using email only to arrange or modify appointments. Please do not email me content related to your therapy sessions, as email is not completely secure or confidential. If you choose to communicate with me by email, be aware that all emails are retained in the logs of your and my Internet service providers. While it is unlikely that someone will be looking at these logs, they are, in theory, available to be read by the system administrator(s) of the Internet service provider.

You should also know that any emails I receive from you and any responses that I send to you become a part of your legal record.

TEXTING

Texting is not a secure form of communication and I do not text.

VIDEO CHAT

Video chat is not a secure form of communication and I will only use it on a HIPAA compliant program such as HipaaChat or Vsee. It is not my policy to engage in therapy online-but there may be exceptions that we can discuss if they arise.

Thank you for reading this document and please feel free to ask any questions.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Notice of Social Media Policy

Canelli Counseling and Consultation PLLC
A. Canelli, MA LMHC
1812 E. Madison Street, Suite 206
Seattle, WA 98122

By my signature below, I _____,
acknowledge that I received a copy of the Social Media Policy for A. Canelli, MA/LMHC. This
policy describes what clients rights regarding social media and their counseling relationship with
A. Canelli.

Signature of Client

Date _____

A. Canelli MA, LMHC

Date _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

I attempted to obtain signed Acknowledgment of Receipt of Notice of Social Media Policies, but
Acknowledgment could not be obtained for the following reason:

- Individual refused to sign
 - Communications barriers prohibited obtaining the Acknowledgment
 - An emergency situation prevented me from obtaining Acknowledgment
 - Other (specified below)
- _____

This form will be retained in the mental health record.