



Counseling Center

Professional • Heartfelt • Confidential

"Bright Path is the Right Path"

ADULT APPLICATION

APPLICATION

Name of Therapist _____ Date _____

Your Name _____ SS # _____

Maiden/Birth Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Marital Status _____ Highest Grade Completed _____

Place of Employment: _____ Occupation: _____

Referred by: _____ Previous Counseling (Yes/No): _____

I understand that I will be responsible for any deductible or remaining balance not payable by my insurance company at the time service was rendered. Further, I hereby give permission to Bright Path Counseling Center to verify my insurance coverage and to provide my insurance company with any information requested by them for the purpose of determining benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____

_____ **Please initial here that you have reviewed our HIPAA Policies**



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Financial Policy

Welcome to our office. We are committed to providing you with quality health care and treatment. Please understand that payment of your bill is considered an integral part of your health care and treatment. The following is a statement of our **Financial Policy**.

1. Before you see a therapist, our office manager must receive all the required administrative forms completely filled in and signed.
2. **You are responsible for all fees at the time professional services are rendered to you.** We accept check, cash, money orders, Visa, Master Card, and Discover card. A **finance fee of \$5.00 will be charged to any balance over 30 days old.** If your account is delinquent, counseling services will be interrupted until payment is received.
3. If our counselor chooses to perform urine screens, the lab we use for urine screens is Med Lab, Inc. **You will be required to pay a \$20 fee to Bright Path for this service unless covered by Medicaid.** We do not submit claims to other insurance companies for urine screens. If you would like to submit your own claim, we will be happy to give you the necessary documentation to do so.
4. In the event that we are unable to file your insurance claim for any reason, our receipts are adequately itemized and coded for ease in filing for reimbursement with your carrier by yourself.
5. We will submit all claims to participating insurance companies. You will be responsible for any deductible(s) and/or co-payments that are due at the time of service. **If for any reason claims are denied by your insurance company, payment for services rendered are still your responsibility.**
6. Although we do everything we can to predetermine your insurance benefits and obtain prior authorizations where necessary, it is still your responsibility to check with your insurance company to ascertain your insurance coverage and to get any necessary prior authorization or physician referral. **You are responsible for any denial occasioned by failure to do so.**
7. No paperwork will be released to anyone unless your account is paid in full.
8. It is our policy to charge a **fee for cancellations or failure to keep your appointment** unless appointments are canceled **forty-eight (48) hours** of the previous business day or more in advance. For instance, Monday appointments must be canceled on Thursday. Your insurance company **is not** responsible for such charges.
9. There is a **\$35.00 fee for checks that are returned** for insufficient funds.
10. If we are required to engage the services of an attorney in order to collect any amount you owe us, you will be responsible for the reasonable attorney's fees and other collection expenses incurred.

If you have a balance due on your account today from previous visits, please remit this balance in full before you see the therapist today.

Please sign below to indicate your acceptance of these terms.

Client's Signature

Date



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Patient/Client Rights

1. Each client has a right to an individually designed plan of service based on his or her individual needs in which the client has participated in developing, and which includes goals that the client has agreed to work towards.
2. Each client shall be free of any personal involvement with any facility staff member.
3. Each client has the right to considerate and respectful care.
4. Each client has the right to receive services from staff which are competent and caring.
5. Each client has the right to be treated in a way which recognizes and responds to his or her cultural identity and/or sexual orientation.
6. Each client has the right to know the counselor responsible for coordinating his or her care and the name of any other person providing care to him or her.
7. No client shall be treated by a staff member who is known to be under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs.
8. Each client has the right to obtain from his or her counselor current information concerning his/her diagnosis and treatment in terms that he or she can understand.
9. Each client has the right to receive services in a physical environment that is safe, sanitary, reflective of human dignity, conducive to effective treatment, and which appropriately safeguards the privacy and confidentiality of client-staff interaction.
10. Each client has a right to examine and receive an explanation of his/her bill, regardless of the source of payment.
11. Each client may object to conditions at the facility and has a right to reasonable, prompt response from either the Practice Manager or the Clinical Director. Each client also has the right to complain to the Clinical Director and obtain from the facility staff information about how such a complaint may be filed.
12. All treatment is voluntary. There may be legal, family, or employment consequences if treatment is refused or terminated early.
13. It is our policy to charge a client for any unused service scheduled unless we have received 48-hour notice of cancellation. Please refer to our cancellation/no show policy and our financial policy for details

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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Canceling Appointments

OR

Not Showing Up For Your Scheduled Appointments

Bright Path Counseling Center was created as a place to meet your counseling needs in a setting filled with respect, comfort, confidentiality, professionalism and personal caring. The main ingredient that makes this possible is the superior counseling and administrative staff that we have assembled for your needs.

With great respect, we honor your journey to healing by providing quality care in a timely fashion. **We have limited space and time, therefore, every appointment time set for you is at a premium. We appreciate your returning this respect by committing to be here at your appointment time.** We know you will understand the need for us to uphold the following policies:

Be On Time: Try to arrive a few minutes before your appointment so that you have the full time for your session. Therapists need to conclude your session at the appropriate time so they can complete proper closure to your session.

Not Showing Up: If you fail to be here for your appointment, please remember that **this time has already been committed to you** so you will be responsible to pay a **No-Show Fee, regardless of your insurance carrier.**

Cancellations Without 48-Hour Notice: Your appointment times cannot be filled with another client without sufficient notice. Therefore, you are still responsible for that time slot and will be charged a **Late Cancellation Fee regardless of your insurance carrier.** Appointments must be canceled **forty-eight (48) hours** of the previous business day or more in advance. For instance, Monday appointments must be canceled on Thursday.

Recurring Missed Appointments: If you are an *established client* and you miss two appointments in a row, it shows that you are probably not committed to your counseling. Therefore, you may be discharged or placed on a clinical pause. At the discretion of the multi-disciplinary team, you will be eligible to "re-enter" the program thirty days from the discharge or pause date provided your account balance has been paid in full.

Emergency Cancellations: With a doctor's written report, a car mechanic's receipt, or other proper documentation, we will reschedule your appointment for the next available time that your therapist can offer and waive a missed appointment Fee.



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NO SHOW & LATE CANCEL CONTRACT

Bright Path schedules your counselor for one hour of time based on the appointment you have made. That is a commitment!

Bright Path charges a fee for appointments when the client either fails to show up to their appointment (No Show) or cancels their appointment less than 48 hours of the scheduled time (Late Cancel).

These fees are not reimbursed by insurance companies and are therefore accepted as part of this contract as a Non-covered Service.

These fees cover reservation of your counselor's contracted time for counseling services that could not be rendered due to your failure to show and the resulting inability to otherwise provide services to other clients during that scheduled time due to lack of adequate notification.

Bright Path's Fees are as follows:

No Show Fee: \$45.00

Late Cancel Fee: \$25.00

Further, Bright Path reserves the right to:

1. Pause any additional appointments for clients who have failed to show for their appointments (No Show).
2. Pause any additional appointments for clients who have either No-Showed or who have Late Canceled twice within a 30-day window.
3. Pause any additional appointments for failure to pay fees associated with this contract.

It is at the discretion of Bright Path Counseling Center when and if additional appointments can be made at our facility based on the poor attendance record or inappropriate behavior of the client at Bright Path.

Client Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Client signature or Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Date: _____



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Informed Consent for Treatment

I give consent for evaluation and treatment to be provided for myself/my child by

_____.

I am aware that the practice of psychotherapy is not an exact science and that results cannot be guaranteed. No promises have been made to me about the results of treatment.

The risks, benefits, side effects, and alternatives of treatment as well as the consequences of non-compliance with treatment have been discussed with me and I have had the opportunity to ask questions.

I understand that I need to provide accurate information about myself to my clinician so that I will receive effective treatment. I also agree to play an active role in my treatment process.

I understand that I may terminate treatment at any time.

My signature below shows that I understand and agree with all of the above statements. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the treatment process. If the client is a minor or has a legal guardian appointed by the court, the client's parent or legal guardian must sign this consent.

Signature of Patient or Parent/Guardian

Date

Printed Name

Relationship to Patient (if applicable)

Witness Signature

Date



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Background Information

Please provide the following information about yourself (if you are bringing your child to counseling, you will be given another form to fill out about your child). This information will help us better understand the situations you are experiencing. The information is confidential and will not be released without your written permission.

(Please Print)

Name _____ **DOB** _____

Today's Date _____

SITUATIONS YOU ARE HAVING

√	Check all that apply	√	Check all that apply
	Depression		Parent-child conflict (self)
	Suicidal thoughts		Parent-child conflict (spouse)
	Suicidal actions		Marital – relationship issues
	Anxiety / Fears / Worries/ Moody		Brother / sister issues
	Panic attacks		Blended family issues
	Communication issues		Nicotine abuse by family member
	Anger/ Temper Issues		Eating disorder
	Sexual dysfunction		Compulsive gambling
	Alcohol / Other drug abuse (family)		Job / School situations / unemployed
	Alcohol / Other drug abuse (self)		Legal issues
			Death of a loved one

TRAUMA HISTORY

	Violence in Family/Physical Abuse: Current Actual or Threatened - Circle one Who is the Victim: Abuser:		Violence in Family/Physical Abuse: Past Actual or Threatened - Circle one Who is the Victim: Abuser:
	Current Sexual abuse: Victim: Abuser:		Past Sexual abuse: Age: Victim: Abuser:
	Other Current Abuse - Describe:		Other Past Abuse - Describe:
	Major losses: Please List		Difficult changes: Please List

DIFFICULTIES WITH COPING

√	Check all that apply	√	Check all that apply
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleep issues <input type="checkbox"/> difficulty falling asleep <input type="checkbox"/> waking up in the middle of the night <input type="checkbox"/> waking up too early <input type="checkbox"/> sleeping too much <input type="checkbox"/> nightmares		<input type="checkbox"/> Change in appetite <input type="checkbox"/> gaining weight (____pounds) <input type="checkbox"/> losing weight (____pounds) <input type="checkbox"/> not hungry <input type="checkbox"/> throwing up after eating <input type="checkbox"/> feeling sick to my stomach
	Moody or crying more than usual		Constipation or diarrhea
	Feeling guilty, worthless, or hopeless		Difficulties concentrating
	Fatigue / low energy		Difficulty remembering things
	Hyper / too much energy		Withdrawing from others
	Loss of interest in things		Repeated actions I can't stop
	Disturbing thoughts I can't stop		Can't stop washing hands/body
	People are out to get me		People are picking on me
	Can't stop counting or checking things		Other (please specify below)

MEDICAL HISTORY: SELF

Name of Primary Care Physician : _____ OK to contact? Y or N (circle)

Contact Info for PCP: _____

*Please **circle** any of the following medical conditions that you have now or have had in the past:*

1. Chronic medical conditions / Serious illnesses (if none apply, circle None):

Asthma	Diabetes	Ulcers	Liver Damage	Kidney
Lupus	Stroke	Cancer	Epilepsy/Seizures	Heart
Headaches	Head Injury	Thyroid	Dementia	Addiction
Hepatitis	Hypertension	Chronic Fatigue	Multiple Sclerosis	Depression
Ulcers	Cancer	Migraines	OB-GYN	Anxiety

None Other _____

Any allergies or drug sensitivities? _____

2. Previous hospitalizations / surgeries

Date	Reason

3. List any previous suicide attempts If none, circle ⇒ None

When	What method

4. Current prescriptions / medications: _____

5. Physical Exam in last year? ___ Yes ___ No **Recommended?** ___ Yes ___ No

MEDICAL HISTORY: FAMILY

Please **circle** any of the following medical conditions that you have now or have had in the past:

Chronic medical conditions / Serious illnesses (if none apply, circle **None**):

Asthma	Diabetes	Ulcers	Liver Damage	Kidney
Lupus	Stroke	Cancer	Epilepsy/Seizures	Heart
Headaches	Head Injury	Thyroid	Dementia	Addiction
Hepatitis	Hypertension	Chronic Fatigue	Multiple Sclerosis	Depression
Ulcers	Cancer	Migraines	OB-GYN	Anxiety

In your family, has anyone ever been diagnosed and/or treated for the following – note relation:

__ Schizophrenia _____ Manic-Depressive Disorder _____
 __ Major depression _____ Alcoholism _____
 __ Drug Abuse _____

Other medical: _____

PREVIOUS COUNSELING FOR SELF

Name of therapist or agency	Date and focus of sessions

LIFESTYLE CHOICES

- Smoking (how much?) _____
- Alcohol use (how much, how often?) _____
- Other drug use (which, how much?) _____
- How much coffee/tea/Coke/Pepsi? _____
- Spiritual Identification _____
- Cultural Concerns _____
- Have you had any legal charges? If so, complete form below (If none, write **None**):

Date	What charges?

- Have you had any previous (or current) CPS involvement? Yes ___ No ___
- What is the highest level of schooling you have completed? _____
- Are there any guns or weapons in your house? _____

RELATIONSHIPS

Please use a checkmark (✓) to indicate which of the following situations apply to you:

Too few friends	Enough friends
I talk to my friends about my problems	I don't talk to my friends about my problems
I am overly shy	I find it very difficult to open up to others
I make friends easily	I find it hard to keep friends
Others seem to be picking on me	No one really seems to understand me

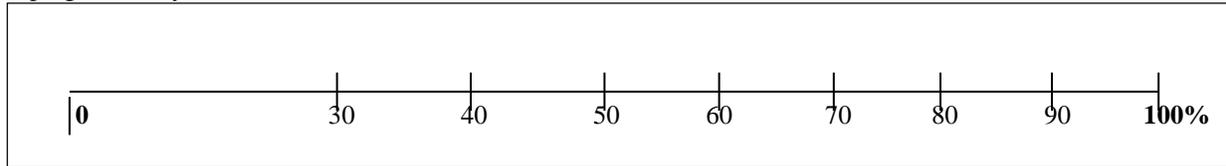
SOURCES OF STRESS

Please list the things/events/situations that are creating stress in your life at the present time (please include significant losses and changes in your life):

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

CURRENT FUNCTIONING

Place an "X" on the following scale to indicate how well you are coping with things at the present time. 100% means you are coping the best you ever have.



YOUR GOALS IN COUNSELING

Please list the goals you hope to achieve in counseling. (Be as specific as you can.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

HOW MANY SESSIONS DO YOU THINK YOU WILL NEED?

Please place a checkmark (✓) in the answer that best describes your expectations:

1-3 sessions
 4-6 sessions
 7-9 sessions
 8-12 sessions

_____ (Please specify how many.)

Therapist Review: _____ (Initials) _____ (Date)



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AUTHORIZATION

Permission is hereby given to **Bright Path Counseling Center** and its employees to obtain information from and/or release information to:

(Name of organization or individual)

Regarding: _____ Date of Birth: _____

For the purpose of:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination of treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Referral out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance reimbursement | <input type="checkbox"/> Probation requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal concerns | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact referral source |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collateral contact | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Extent or nature of information to be disclosed:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Yes | No | Yes | No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychosocial evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Urine drug Screen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/drug evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Breathalyzer results |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychological testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Progress in treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Summary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

I understand that I may revoke this consent at any time by notifying the agency in writing, except to the extent that action has already been taken in reliance on my consent. Bright Path Counseling Center is released from all legal responsibility that may arise from this fact.

I, the undersigned, have read the above and authorize the staff of the facility to disclose such information as herein contained.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

This authorization expires one year from its signing. A copy is as valid as the original document.



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EMERGENCY CONTACT RELEASE FORM

Please sign consent for a person you would like notified in the event of an emergency.

(Please print)

Your Full Name _____

Your Date of Birth _____

Permission is hereby given to **Bright Path Counseling Center** and its employees to obtain information from and/or release information to:

Name of Person to Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Person's Phone Number: _____

For the purpose of releasing information relating to an accident, injury or medical emergency.

Note that in an event of an emergency no information protected under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPPA") 45 C.F.R. pts. 160 & 164 will be disclosed to your emergency contact. I understand that I may revoke this consent at any time by notifying the agency in writing, except to the extent that action has already been taken in reliance on my consent. Bright Path Counseling Center is released from all legal responsibility that may arise from this fact.

I, the undersigned, have read the above and authorize the staff of the facility to disclose such information as herein contained.

Date _____

Signature _____

Witness _____

This authorization expires one year from its signing. A copy is as valid as the original document.

BACKGROUND

On May 5, 2007, the Governor signed a new law, known as "Jonathan's Law" (Chapter 24 of the Laws of 2007), which became effective immediately. This new law, stimulated by the tragic death of a 13-year old Jonathan Carey, while in residential care makes changes in the way in which certain notifications are made and information is shared, regarding incidents involving the health and safety of patients.

You also have the right to refuse this request. If you choose not to identify an emergency contact please sign below.

I understand by signing below I am refusing to name and give consent for a person to be notified in the event of accident or injury.

Client

Date

Witness

Date



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HIPAA POLICY

We at **Bright Path Counseling Center** are committed to safeguarding your **personal health information** (PHI). PHI is any information that can identify you as an individual **and** your past, present, or future medical and/or mental health condition.

This notice, in addition to telling you about the ways that we may use and disclose your medical information, also describes your rights, and the obligations that we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information. Federal and state law require us to:

- 1) Make sure your PHI is kept private;
- 2) Give you notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI; and
- 3) Follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect.

Therefore, we will release your PHI only under the following circumstances:

- 1) When you give us written consent to do so.
- 2) When we are required by a specific court order to do so.

We will make changes in our privacy policy only as required by law. We will notify you in advance of those changes, in writing.

Privacy Compliance Officer:

The privacy compliance officer at **Bright Path** is **Bonnie Merkel**. Please address all complaints and/or requests for amendments to your PHI, and/or requests for copies of your PHI, to Bonnie Merkel.

Nonpublic Personal Information:

Nonpublic Personal Information is the information you give your insurance company when you sign up for benefits, such as name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, etc. We will only provide that information to your insurance company (or companies) in order to verify benefits and obtain payment for services rendered. We will not disclose that information to any other entity unless 1) required to do so by court order; or 2) you give us written consent to do so.

Psychotherapy notes:

Psychotherapy notes have special protection under the new HIPAA regulations:

- 1) They can only be released under a court order that shows the necessity of their release.
- 2) Barring a court order, they can only be released **when the therapist determines the release to be in your best interest.**
- 3) Psychotherapy notes will never be released without your consent, but they may not be released to an entity you authorize, if your therapist deems it to be detrimental to your treatment.
- 4) Your insurance company may no longer pre-condition payment of benefits on the release of psychotherapy notes.

Please note the following restrictions, and please do not ask us to violate them:

- 1) We cannot acknowledge your presence and/or treatment at Bright Path Counseling Center without your written consent, or a court order. We cannot do so for family members, friends, employers, lawyers, government agencies, etc. If you want any of the above to act on your behalf, including the setting or changing of appointments, you must sign a written authorization.

- 2) We cannot complete any paperwork for any local, state or federal agency, for any purpose, without your consent. We cannot provide any PHI to any insurance agency other than the one(s) reimbursing us for authorized care without your specific written authorization.

Individual Rights:

- 1) You have the right to inspect and/or copy your PHI, when your therapist determines that such an inspection and/or copying would not be detrimental to your physical health or personal safety, and would not cause harm to another individual. **This right does not extend to psychotherapy notes, as noted above.**
- 2) You have a right, under law, to request an accounting of the instances in which we disclosed your PHI, other than disclosures made for the purpose of treatment, payment, and disclosures made with your authorization. However, at **Bright Path Counseling Center**, we do not make any disclosures outside of those parameters.
- 3) You have the right to request additional restrictions on our use and disclosure of your PHI. However, the law will not permit us to honor those additional restrictions if they keep us from receiving payment for services rendered.

Amendment:

You have the right to request that we amend your PHI. Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We will deny your request if we did not create the information you want amended, or if we determine the current information is accurate. If we accept your request, we will make a reasonable effort to notify others, including people or organizations you name in your written request, and will include the changes in all future disclosures of your PHI. If we deny your request, we will provide a written explanation. You may then respond with a written statement of disagreement that will be attached to the information you want amended. You may contact Bonnie Merkel for a form to complete and return to us.

Safeguards:

We employ the following safeguards to insure the privacy of your PHI:

- All of our employees sign an agreement to follow our Confidentiality guidelines.
- All of our employees complete privacy training.
- We have implemented sanctions for the violation of privacy practices, up to and including loss of employment.
- We have a privacy coordinator who detects and prevents security breaches.
- All computer systems that contain personal information have security protection.
- All physical files are kept in a double-locked storage container.
- All of our therapy offices conform to state and federal privacy regulations with regards to construction and use.

Questions and Complaints:

If you want more information about our privacy practices, or feel that your privacy rights have been violated, please contact our privacy officer. You may also submit a written complaint to the Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with HHS upon request.

Please contact: Bright Path Counseling Center
7266 Buckley Road
North Syracuse NY 13212
Phone: 315-458-0919 Fax: 315-458-0954