**CLIENT INFORMATION**

Full Name:

1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SS#:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip:

Home phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: (1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Is it okay to leave you a message? Yes No

I prefer messages left on the following number: (Please Circle) Home Work Cell

Email: 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer 1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INSURED/RESPONSIBLE PARTY INFORMATION**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Client:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_ Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL INSURANCE INFORMATION**

Marital Status: \_\_\_ Single \_\_\_ Married \_\_\_ Other

Employment Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Employed \_\_\_ Full-time \_\_\_Part-Time \_\_\_ Not employed \_\_\_ Student

I authorize use of this form with all of my insurance submissions. I authorize the release of information to my insurance company. I understand that I am responsible for the full amount of my bill for services provided. I authorize direct payment to my service provider. I hereby permit a copy of this to be used in place of an original. If I decide not to use my insurance and self-pay, I understand no information will be given to my insurance company.

Print Your Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (1):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Your Name (2):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (2):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Referred By:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you learn about Fern Ferguson Bush, MSW, LCSW: \_\_\_**Physician \_\_\_Friend \_\_\_ Web site

\_\_\_ Insurance Company \_\_\_ Employee Assistance Program \_\_\_Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN CONSENT TO USE & DISCLOSE YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

I authorize Fern Ferguson Bush L.L.C. to contact my Primary Care Physician (PCP) regarding my medical conditions as well as information pertaining to my psychological and emotional functioning. This information will be useful in treatment planning. I authorize the release of the information verbally or in writing. I am aware that this is encouraged by my insurance company.

Primary Care Physician:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have the following health problems:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I take the following medications: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* I do not permit Fern Ferguson Bush L.L.C. to contact my Primary Care Physician.
* I do permit Fern Ferguson Bush L.L.C. to contact my Primary Care Physician
* I do not have a Primary Care Physician.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature Date

**PSYCHIATRIST CONSENT TO USE & DISCLOSE YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

I am currently under the care of a psychiatrist. I authorize Gaining Perspectives L.L.C. to contact my psychiatrist regarding my mental health care, services, and treatment planning. I authorize contact to be verbal or written.

Psychiatrist Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I take the following medications:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* I do not permit Fern Ferguson Bush L.L.C. to contact my Psychiatrist
* I do permit Fern Ferguson Bush L.L.C. to contact my Psychiatrist
* I do not have a Psychiatrist

Have you ever seen another therapist, counselor or mental health professional? YES NO

If so, who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please give a reason for changing therapist? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

I give permission for the following people to receive and give information regarding my mental health:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Name & relationship

Name & relationship

Name & relationship

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature Date

**Fern Ferguson Bush, MSW, LCSW**

737 Dunn Rd.

Hazelwood, MO 63042

(314) 956-1595

**CLIENT INFORMATION & CONSENT**

**THERAPIST**

Fern Ferguson Bush is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she received her Masters of Social Work Degree from Washington University in 1980. Fern is engaged in private practice providing mental health services directly to clients at Walter’s Walk. Fern holds to an eclectic approach to therapy in order to promote collaboration between therapist and client. Fern is licensed by the state of Missouri and has a background working in non-profit settings, hospital settings, childcare settings as well as crisis intervention services within the social services field. Marie is trained in crisis intervention techniques, and client centered trauma informed care. She has experience in child welfare to include foster care, kinship care, residential care and adoption. She also has experience in parent education, anger management issues, relationship issues, and stress management.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: BENEFITS & RISKS

While it may not be easy to seek help from a mental health professional, I hope that this experience will assist you in understanding your situation or problem and moving toward a resolution of this issue. A therapist has professional training and knowledge of human development and behavior and will make observations about your situation and will assist you in finding options for resolution of your issue(s). The therapist may utilize various therapeutic approaches in order to assist you in resolving your problem(s). You should be aware that entering into psychotherapy is a risk. Psychotherapy sessions can be painful at times. Often times, you may learn new information about yourself that you may not like. Often personal growth cannot occur until you are able to confront your issues and experience the associated feelings. These feelings may include pain, sadness, anger or shame. The success of our work depends on quality effort of both therapist and client and the realization that you are ultimately in control of and responsible for the changes that result from psychotherapy. Specifically, one risk of psychotherapy is encountering (positive or negative) reactions from significant others to your new lifestyle choices/changes.

GOALS, PURPOSES, AND TECHNIQUES OF THERAPY

Psychotherapy may be one way to effectively treat your problem. There may be alternative ways to treat your problem. It is important for you to discuss any concerns you have regarding the therapist’s treatment recommendations. The therapist encourages you to provide input into setting your goals for therapy and the therapeutic techniques used for treatment. As therapy progresses, these goals and techniques may change.

RELATIONSHIP

Your relationship with your therapist is a professional relationship. In order to preserve this relationship, the therapist cannot have any other type of relationship with you. Any personal or business relationships with you will undermine the effectiveness of the therapeutic relationship and therefore is strictly prohibited. Your therapist is committed to your mental health but is not in the position to become socially or personally involved with you. Please note that the therapist cannot accept any gifts, or barter/trade services.

SESSIONS

Individual Therapy sessions are 45 – 60 minutes in length. The number of sessions needed depends on various factors and can be discussed during your session. Some insurance companies may provide a limited number of sessions under your designated plan. If your insurance company requires authorization for mental health services, it is your responsibility to obtain this authorization prior to our initial appointment. Requests for additional sessions from your insurance company will be requested by the therapist.

APPOINTMENTS & CANCELLATIONS

To schedule an appointment, please call my office number, (314) 956-1595. If you think that you will be unable to attend a scheduled appointment, please provide me with 24 hours’ notice. If you miss an appointment, it is your responsibility to contact the therapist to reschedule. If you do not show up for an appointment, and do not call to cancel your appointment within 24 hours of the missed appointment, all future scheduled appointments may be canceled. The therapist in most cases does not provide reminder calls about your upcoming appointment. You may be charged a $60.00 no show/no cancellation fee. An appointment card can be provided to you for your convenience.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**: All sessions with your therapist are confidential. No information will be released without your written consent. However, there are some exceptions including, but not limited to the following:

1. All insurance companies require that a provider furnish a diagnosis and sometimes a treatment plan on each client in order to justify the necessity of treatment and payment. Your insurance company paying for services may have a right to review all of your treatment records.
2. Missouri State Law demands that all providers report any suspected physical or sexual abuse to the appropriate Child or Elderly Hotline Services, which is then reported to the appropriate agency for investigation.
3. Missouri State Law and Professional Ethics require all providers to report if a client is homicidal or suicidal. This is reported in order to help the client rather than harm the client. Therapist also has a duty to warn any person who is a potential target for harm by a client. Therapist will notify targeted person and law enforcement of any such threats.
4. If a Federal or State Court requests the release of records, the provider has to comply, with certain exceptions.
5. Most insurance companies require that a provider keep a patient’s “Primary Care Physician” informed of his/her mental health treatment. By signing the consent, you agree to allow me to keep your physician informed at my discretion.
6. A fee dispute between the therapist and client.
7. A negligence suit brought by the client against the therapist or a complaint filed with a licensing board, or other state or federal regulatory authority.

For further information, please review the Notice of Privacy Practices handout provided to you by the therapist. If you have additional questions, please address them with the therapist. By signing this information and consent form, you are giving consent to the understated therapist to share confidential information with all persons mandated by law and with the managed care company and/or insurance carrier responsible for providing your mental health services and payment for those services. You are also releasing and holding harmless the undersigned therapist from any departure from your right of confidentiality that may result.

DUTY TO WARN

I designate the following people to be contacted if I am in danger:

NAME RELATIONSHIP TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FEES & PAYMENTS**

The initial therapy session is $125.00. All follow-up sessions are $100.00 each. All payments and fees MUST be paid at the time of service. Please be aware that I accept cash only. If there are questions or concerns about the therapy fee, please discuss this matter with me.

**FINANCIAL POLICY**

**I require that your co-payment or deductible be paid at the time of service.** The balance is your responsibility if your insurance company does not pay. I cannot bill your insurance company unless you give me your insurance information. Your insurance policy is a contract between you and your insurance company. I am not a party to this contract. Please be aware that some, and perhaps all, of the services provided may be uncovered services and not considered medically necessary under your insurance plan. It is your responsibility to inform me of any changes in your insurance company prior to the effective date of change.

**ADULT PATIENTS**

Adult patients are responsible for payment of their own accounts.

**MINOR PATIENTS**

The adult accompanying a minor and the parents/guardians of the minor are responsible for payment of the minor’s account.

**DOCUMENTATION**

**Fern Ferguson Bush L.L.C. does not provide written documentation, summaries or completion of forms requested by you or other agencies (i.e. Social Security Administration, short-term disability companies, etc.).** However, if any formal request for this service is requested, a fee of $50.00 per document will be charged. The fee will be collected from the client prior to the completion of the document.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The therapist does not attend court proceedings. If you believe any situation you are involved in will require the therapist being involved in legal matters, a referral to other therapists will be provided to you. If the therapist is subpoenaed on your behalf or if for testimony on behalf of another party which involves you**, a fee of $200**/hour will be charged for the therapist’s time, preparation and expense spent in responding to a subpoena. This fee also applies to travel time and time spent in court. This fee will be charged from when the therapist leaves her residence, the duration of court proceedings and until the time the therapist returns to her residence. You will be required to pay the estimated fee prior to the court date. Any amount collected in excess of the actual time spent will be refunded to you.

**TELEPHONE CONCERNS AND AFTER HOURS CONTACT**

Fern can be reached via phone at (314) 956-1595 cell.

Client of are assumed to be self-responsible and autonomous and not in need of day-to-day supervision. Therefore, I cannot assume responsibility for day-to-day functioning as can an institution (hospital, mental health agency). In order for the therapist to provide the best care for clients, if you believe you are in a life threatening crisis, please call 911, call your psychiatrist, go to the nearest emergency room, call Behavior Health Response (BHR) at 314-469-6644 or Life Crisis 314-647-4357. Please leave a message on Gaining Perspectives L.L.C.’soffice number (314) 372-5499 if you need to cancel an appointment on a day prior to your scheduled appointment.

**THERAPIST’S INCAPACITY OR DEATH**

In the event **Fern Ferguson Bush, MSW, LCSW** is unable to continue facilitating therapy sessions with me, due to her illness, death or other emergency situation, it will be necessary for another mental health professional to take possession of my file and records and access to my contact and treatment information. I give permission to allow **Jean E. Moretto, Ph.D, LPC** to take possession of my file and records. I am aware that I may have a copy of portions of the file or request that my entire file be transferred to a mental health professional of my choosing.

**ELECTRONIC MESSAGING POLICY**

It is understood that any written communication via the Internet, including e-mail, or via texting may be susceptible to unauthorized interception, In the event that you do not wish any communication via e-mail or other means, please notify us in writing.

\_\_\_ I do NOT want to communicate by any form of electronic messaging

\_\_\_ I give the therapist permission to communicate with me by electronic messaging. I understand this form of communication may be susceptible to unauthorized interception.

**CONSENT TO TREATMENT**

I voluntarily agree to receive mental health services which include assessment, care, treatment or services through the understated therapist.

I agree to participate in the planning of my care, treatment or services and I acknowledge that I may discontinue care, treatment or services at any time.

I have thoroughly read and understand this Client Information and Consent Form. I agree to all the terms and information contained in this document. I have been given opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification of this document. I acknowledge that I have been given the choice to receive a copy of this signed Client Information & Consent Form.

1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature Date

2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Party if other than client Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fern Ferguson Bush, MSW, LCSW Date

⁮\_\_\_\_ Client received a copy

⁮\_\_\_\_ Client declined a copy

Notice of Privacy Practices

Fern Ferguson Bush, LCSW

(Effective 08/01/2013)

*This notice is developed in compliance with the Health Insurance Accountability and Portability /act of 1996 (45CRF)*

If you are a client of Fern Ferguson Bush, this notice describes how your health information may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review this notice carefully.

1. *Understanding your Health Record/Information*

As a client of Fern Ferguson Bush, LCSW, a record is kept of your visit. This record contains your reason for seeking services, symptoms, diagnosis and a plan of treatment for future services. Although this record is the property of Fern Ferguson Bush, MSW, LCSW the information within the record belongs to you. This information is considered your “Protected Health Information” (PHI) and is afforded certain protections under the law.

1. *HITECH Amendments*: Fern Ferguson Bush has included HITECH Act Provision to its Notice as follows:

HITECH Notification Requirements: Under HITECH, Fern Ferguson Bush is required to notify clients whose PHI has been breached. Notification must occur by first-class mail within 60 days of the event. A breach means the acquisition, access, use or disclosure of PHI in a manner not permitted under the Privacy Rule which compromises the security or privacy of such information. This notice must: (1) contain a brief description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of discovery; (2) the steps the individual should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach; (3) a brief description of what Fern Ferguson Bush is doing to investigate the breach, mitigate losses, and to protect against further breaches.

Cash Clients

HITECH provides, that if a client pays in full for their services out of pocket, they can that the information regarding the service not be disclosed to the client’s health plan since no claim is being made to the health plan.

Access to E-Health Records

HIECH expands this right, giving individuals the right to access their own e-health record in electronic format, and to direct Fern Ferguson Bush to send the e-health record directly to a third party. Fern Ferguson Bush may only charge for labor costs under these new rules. Fern Ferguson Bush does not currently participate in e-Health Records, when this becomes an option, all clients will be notified.

1. How I May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information

Fern Ferguson Bush will not disclose your health information except as described in this notice.

Other

*Walter’s Walk*: Fern Ferguson Bush may provide your contact information (name, address and phone number) to Walter’s Walk which handles fundraising efforts. However, you may opt out of these efforts. To opt out, please notify Fern Ferguson Bush.

*Treatment*: Fern Ferguson Bush will use your health information to provide treatment. For example, information obtained will be recorded in your record and used to determine the course of treatment/services. Fern Ferguson Bush may consult with other health care professionals to coordinate treatment/services. This will only be done to ensure the course of treatment/services is appropriate to your situation.

*Payment*: Fern Ferguson Bush will use your health information to receive payment for services rendered. For example, Fern Ferguson Bush may release portions of your health information to an insurance plan or other payer to receive payment for services provided to you.

*Health Care Operations*: Your health information may be reviewed by regulatory and accrediting organizations to ensure compliance with their requirements.

*When Required by Law*: Fern Ferguson Bush may disclose your health information when a law requires the therapist report information about suspected abuse, neglect, domestic violence, relating to criminal activity, or in response to a court order.

*Duty to Warn*: Fern Ferguson Bush may disclose protected health information when a client communicates to her a serious threat of suicide or physical violence against her or himself or a reasonably identifiable victim(s). In such an instance, Fern Ferguson Bush will notify either the threatened person(s) and/or law enforcement.

*Notification*: In an emergency, Fern Ferguson Bush may use or disclose health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location and general condition.

*Workers Compensation*: Fern Ferguson Bush may disclose health information to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with the laws relating to worker/s compensation and other similar programs established by law.

*Public Health*: As required by federal and state law, Fern Ferguson Bush may disclose your health information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability.

*Correctional Institution*: Should you be an inmate of a correctional institution; Fern Ferguson Bush may disclose to the institution health information necessary for your health and the health and safety of others.

*Charges Against Fern Ferguson Bush*: Fern Ferguson Bush may disclose your health information to defend herself against any legal action you may take against her.

*Appointments/Treatment*: Fern Ferguson Bush may contact you about appointment reminders/clarification or treatment alternatives.

In all the above stated circumstances, other than for treatment, Fern Ferguson Bush will release only the minimum amount of information necessary to accomplish the purpose of the use or disclosure.

Other

In any other situation, Fern Ferguson Bush will request your written authorization before using or disclosing any of your identifiable health information. For instance, most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes (if recorded by therapist) and most uses and disclosures for marketing purposes, including subsidized treatment communications, will require your authorization. Additionally, most disclosures of PHI that constitute the sale of PHI will require your authorization. If you choose to sign such an authorization to disclose information, you can revoke that authorization at any time to stop future uses/disclosures.

1. Your Rights Regarding Your Health Information

You have the following rights with respect to your protected health information:

1. You have the right to request in writing that your protected health information not be used by Fern Ferguson Bush for treatment, payment or administrative purpose or by/to persons involved in your care except when specifically authorized by you. Fern Ferguson Bush will consider the request but is not legally bound to the restriction unless it pertains to disclosures to a client’s health plan concerning an item or service for which Fern Ferguson Bush has been paid out-of-pocket in full. To the extent that she does agree with any restriction, she will put the agreement in writing and abide by it except in emergency situations. She can not agree to limit uses/disclosures that are required by law.
2. You have the right to request that Fern Ferguson Bush contact or send you information at an alternative address or by alternative means. She will agree to your request if it is reasonably easy for her to do so.
3. You have the right, within the limits of MO statutes, to inspect and copy your protected health information. Any such request must be made in writing. Fern Ferguson Bush will respond in writing to such a request within 30 days. If you request copies, Fern Ferguson Bush may charge you a reasonable cost for copying.
4. You have a right to request to amend your information if you believe that information in your record is incorrect or if important information is missing.
5. You have a right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your protected health information.
6. You have a right to receive this Notice in paper and/or in electronic format.
7. Fern Ferguson Bush’s duties
* Fern Ferguson Bush is required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information and to provide individuals with notice of its legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information.
* Fern Ferguson Bush is required to abide by the terms of this Notice currently in effect, and
* Fern Ferguson Bush reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice and make the new Notice provisions effective for all protected health information that she maintains. Should Fern Ferguson Bush make changes in this notice, she will post the changed Notice in the office waiting area. You may request a copy of the Notice any time.
1. Complaint Procedure

If you are concerned that Fern Ferguson Bush has violated your privacy rights, please contact her. You have the right to file a complaint with her or with the Board of Walter’s Walk and/or with the Secretary of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. Under no circumstances will any action be taken against you for filing a complaint.

By signature, I confirm that I have received this Notice relative to the use of my protected health information.

 Client or Guardian Signature Date

 Client or Guardian Signature Date

 Client received a copy Client declined a copy

Signature of Professional Date