

## Informed Consent



## Prairie Hills Counseling

Satellite office of The RIGHT PATH

Dear Client,

1/23/19

This document is intended to inform you about **Prairie Hills Counseling**, our record keeping practices, fees for service, and the nature and expectations of a professional counseling relationship between counselor and client.

**Background:** Prairie Hills Counseling is a Satellite office of The RIGHT PATH Counseling Services in Winner, SD owned and operated by Lenna S. Thieman, M.A., LPC-MH, QMHP. Prairie Hills Counseling is located in Burke, SD and is staffed by Kris Schweigert, MS, Counselor in Training. Kris is an employee of The Right Path, and receives supervision from her employer.

Kris has a Masters Degree in Counseling from South Dakota State University and she graduated in 1994. Over her professional career she worked as an in-home family therapist, social worker, human services supervisor and a Restorative Justice director, practitioner and consultant. Kris has been a National Board Certified Counselor since 1995, maintaining CEU's and membership. In 2018, she began the process of obtaining her South Dakota Licensed Professional Counselor credential. She passed the National Counselor Exam and is currently and under supervision to obtain her LPC. Kris is currently employed part-time with The Right Path and part-time with Circle Space Services.

At The Right Path and Prairie Hills Counseling, we are serious about following our licensing board rules and abiding by our code of ethics, both of which are in place to protect you. The South Dakota Board of Counseling Examiners directs LPC/LPC-MH to abide by the American Counseling Association [Code of Ethics](#).

**Philosophy:** We truly value the therapeutic relationship between counselor and client and believe it is the key ingredient to sparking change and healing. We believe in empowering clients and using a wide variety of techniques and interventions to make meaning of their experiences to be able to move forward on their journey. Prairie Hills Counseling will work with you to promote Harmony, Healing & Wellness.

**Relationship:** The nature of the counselor-client relationship is professional. If we should see each other in public. We will keep confidentiality and not initiate contact. However, if you see us and would like to greet us, we are happy to say hello. Anything you share in sessions is held in confidence and will not knowingly be shared without your written consent.

**Risks and Benefits of Counseling:** While counseling is often found to be beneficial to clients as a means to gain self-awareness, coping skills and a sense of empowerment to move through troubling times, it is possible that clients will experience difficult emotions at times throughout the process. While this may happen, keeping consistent appointments and a commitment to yourself and your healing is best. It is our promise to always see you as a valuable, worthwhile human being and always our desire to offer the guidance and tools necessary for you to reach your counseling goals. Traditionally, clients who speak honestly and openly in session find this propels them forward in their self-awareness, progress towards their goals and ultimate healing.

**Scheduling:** Prairie Hills Counseling provides services by appointment only. Appointment days may vary, however services will be offered in Winner on Tuesdays, and in Burke on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. At times, services may be provided at other locations.

You can schedule an appointment at the website <https://ritepath.mytherabook.com/appointments/new> or contact Kris (605-831-0119 or [kris@circle-space.org](mailto:kris@circle-space.org)) for available appointment times. Please allow 24 hours for messages to be returned. In case of an emergency, and you can not reach Kris, contact another mental health provider, call 911, or go to the emergency room.

**Working with minors:** While we recognize that minors are under 18 years of age, we try to honor them with the same level of confidentiality we offer our adult clients. For parents, this means trusting that while we may not provide you with the details of our counseling sessions with your child, we promise to facilitate your child in letting you know, the things you'll need to know.

**Confidentiality:** Confidentiality means that the counselor has a responsibility to safeguard information obtained during treatment. It is important that you understand all identifying information about your assessment and treatment is kept confidential, except as noted below in the limits of confidentiality section. In order to protect your confidentiality, you must sign a release of information before any information about you is given outside of Prairie Hills Counseling.

**Limits of Confidentiality:** It is important that you understand the laws of the State of South Dakota and all exceptions to confidentiality. In certain situations, mental health professionals are required by law to reveal information obtained during therapy to other persons or agencies without your permission. This includes the following:

- Confidentiality does not apply to cases of suspected abuse/neglect of children or the elderly.
- Confidentiality does not apply to cases of potential harm to self or others.
- Confidentiality may not apply to cases involving the minor child. In such cases, the counselor may advise a parent, or guardian of a minor, with or without the minor's consent, of the treatment needed by or given to the minor.

**Cost of Service:** Services provided by Kris Schweigert or Prairie Hills Counseling will be billed at \$50.00 per hour. Payments are due at the end of each appointment, unless other arrangements have been made.

- I understand I will be charged a LATE CANCELLATION fee of \$20 if I fail to give at least 24 hours notice prior to cancelling my appointment.
- I understand I will be charged a NO-SHOW fee of \$20 if I fail to show for my appointment.
- I understand that the therapy session will last 55 minutes. I understand that if I am late to the appointment, I will still have until the end of the scheduled session.

#### **Written Acknowledgement and Consent to Counseling**

I have reviewed & I accept this Informed Consent & Counseling Agreement with Prairie Hills Counseling.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature (or Legal Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Kris Schweigert  
Counselor Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counselor Signature (or Legal Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Thank You!

We look forward to working with you.