



Joseph Degeling | Psychologist

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WorkCover number: 11148

Consent Form for Psychological Services

This document is designed to inform you about the management of information that you disclose to your psychologist. Also provided is a detailed description of fees, and cancellation policy. Please take the time to read this.

Purpose of Collecting and Retaining Information

As part of providing a psychological service to you, your psychologist will need to collect and record personal information that is relevant to your current situation. Information is gathered as part of the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of a client's condition, and is seen only by the psychologist. The information is retained in order to document what happens during sessions, and enables the psychologist to provide a relevant and informed psychological service. A more detailed description is provided in the practice's "Privacy policy for management of personal information", which can be obtained by contacting Joseph. The Privacy Policy contains information about how to access and seek correction of your personal information, and how to lodge a complaint about our management of your personal information.

Confidentiality

With the exception of certain specific exceptions described below, you have the absolute right to confidentiality of your information. You are assured that all personal information gathered by the psychologist during the provision of the psychological service will remain confidential and secure. However, there are some circumstances where information may need to be passed on to someone else without your consent. This can occur when:

1. The information you have given to your psychologist is subpoenaed (officially requested) by a court of law;
2. Failure to disclose the information would place you or another person at serious risk of harm
3. Your prior approval has been obtained to
 - a. provide a written report to another professional or agency, e.g. a GP or a lawyer;
 - b. discuss the material with another person, e.g. a parent or employer.

Exchange of Client Information

There may be times where, as part of the assessment and therapy process, it may be helpful or necessary for your psychologist to liaise with other people or agencies that are relevant to your therapy goals (e.g., you're GP, specialist, parent, WorkCover, etc.). This will be done with your awareness and consent.

Accessing your Client Information

The psychology services provided are bound by the legal requirements of the National Privacy Principles from the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000. All communications between you and your psychologist become part of your clinical records, which are stored in your client file. Client files are held in a secure cupboard that is accessible only by your treating psychologist. A client has a general right of access to all information in their file, unless one of the exceptions to National Privacy Principle 6 applies. These exceptions restrict access where:

- giving access would pose a serious threat to the physical or mental health of any individual;
- giving access would jeopardise the privacy of others;
- giving access would hinder any law enforcement activities;

If you wish to view and / or have a copy of the material recorded in your file then, by law, it is necessary to make the request in writing. Upon receiving your request we will discuss your access options. Please allow up to 7 days for these arrangements to be made, but we will strive to make your file available as soon as possible.

Fees

Fees are outlined below:

- \$140 per 50 minute session;
- Letters, other reports and phone calls: \$2.40/minute

If you have a valid Mental Health Care Plan from your GP, or a referral from a psychiatrist, then you will be able to claim a Medicare rebate of approx \$84.80 per session for a maximum of 10 sessions per calendar year (your gap payment is \$55.20). If you are not eligible for Medicare you may use private health insurance or pay the full fee. Please note you cannot use your private health insurance ancillary cover in conjunction with Medicare rebates for psychology services.

All fees are payable at the conclusion of each session.

Cancellation Policy

If, for some reason you need to cancel or postpone the appointment, you must give at least 24 hours notice, ***otherwise (except in exceptional circumstances) the full consultation fee will be incurred - \$140.***

As you can understand it is nearly impossible for a psychologist to book a new client at very short notice, and if several clients cancel in one day then the psychologist loses a large amount of their income. If you consider the situation in these terms, and also realise that a psychologist must pay substantial clinic room rental fees, then you can understand why we must charge a cancellation fee for missed appointments. Please note that Medicare or health insurance rebates are not applicable to cancellation fees.

Confirmation of Informed Consent

I, _____, have read and understood the above Consent Form. I agree to these conditions for the psychological service provided by *Joseph Degeling*.

Client's signature _____ Date _____

Please Note: If, after reading this page you are unsure of what is written, please discuss it with your psychologist before signing.