

Counselling in Your Community

Online Counselling Agreement

Before the beginning of our work together it is necessary for us to have a working agreement, so that we both know what is required of us. **Please carefully read the following information to find out what's involved.**

About me

My name is Hazel Hill and I am a qualified registered (045039) Counsellor and a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP). I work to BACP's 'Ethical Framework for Counsellors' and 'Guidelines for Online Counselling and Psychotherapy'.

Online counselling

Online counselling may be able to help with a wide range of issues including, abuse, anxiety, bereavement, cultural issues, depression, eating difficulties, loneliness, relationship problems, self-esteem, sexual orientation, sexual abuse, work related issues and many more. Not all types of issues can be resolved through online counselling and I will advise you if I feel face to face counselling would be more appropriate. If I consider that online counselling would not be the most suitable means of support I will endeavour to assist you in a referral to a suitable alternative source of support in the area you live in.

Counselling can either be by email, instant messaging or video call using skype. Payment and this agreement must be completed before our counselling session can begin. A weekly time can be booked for our instant messaging or video call. Therapeutic email exchanges are generally one for each week for an agreed period. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response to your e-mail. If you miss your time slot or fail to send an email then your payment will be kept. The only exception will be if a technical failure has prevented the email exchange or our skype meeting and I have been advised of this via telephone. Payment charges can be found at <http://inyourcommunity.org.uk/sessions-and-prices/>.

Confidentiality

All therapeutic work is confidential. Neither of us must communicate the content of emails to a third party, which includes not putting anything we do together on any social media or blog.

Counsellors are ethically required to have supervision and I may discuss your case but your identity will never be revealed. The only time that I may break confidentiality is if you are at serious risk of causing harm to yourself or others or when I am compelled to do so by law. If at any point during our counselling arrangement I felt that you were in need of emergency support, I may ask for your consent to contact your GP.

Security

Please ensure that you secure your computer and emails against unauthorised viewing by third parties. It is recommended that you only use a private computer and not a work or public computer. Please ensure you keep your anti-viral protection up-to-date and I will undertake to do the same.

For your safety I also recommend that we use encrypted email software, such as www.hushmail.com which is free. If you need help setting up an email address then I can help you with this once the agreement has been signed. My confidential email address is counsellingonline@hushmail.com. All our emails will be stored on an external drive (password protected), which will be kept in a locked filing cabinet for a period of 5 years. After this time they will be expunged. I have applied to register of data of controller and awaiting for a registration number.

Technology breakdown arrangements

Should you experience a technical breakdown which prevents you from emailing or skyping as agreed, please contact me by mobile (the number will be given to you before commencement of counselling) so that we can discuss how to re-arrange our email exchange. I also undertake to contact you by telephone should I experience a technical breakdown.

Personal crisis procedures

I cannot provide an emergency service for clients. If you find yourself in a major crisis and were considering serious self-harm it would be vital to get immediate help. This could include contacting your GP, or going to your nearest accident and emergency department (A & E). You could also call the Samaritans on 08457 909090 or visit their website www.samaritans.org

Your Details *(Please complete the information below.)*

Full Name: _____

Emergency contact Number: _____

(in the event of Technology breakdown)

GP's Name and Phone

Number: _____

(contact is only applicable for situations where client agree that contact is relevant due to emergency situation arising)

Briefly explain the issues you would like to discuss for counselling:

Have you had counselling or psychological before? If yes, briefly explain the reason for the support and what you felt was the outcome.

Are you currently receiving any support? If yes, briefly explain what support you have. Please include family, friends or organisational support.

I am over 18 years of age: Yes/No *(Please delete no to confirm)*

Please 'sign electronically' here with your name if you agree to working to the points within this agreement.

We cannot begin therapy until receipt of your agreement has been received.