

Confidentiality Statement

I abide by provisions of confidential relations and communications established by Alabama Law and/or the ethical codes of professional associations to include licensure associations regulating the fields of counseling and social work in the state of Alabama. These ethics and standards are intended to protect the welfare of both my clients and the community I serve. Information regarding services is controlled by my clients and will be released only at the written request of the client. To have information released, my client must specify to whom information is to be sent, the specific nature, reason for the extent of the information to be released, and time limit for the effectiveness of the release. The client may withdraw the release at any time by doing so in writing. When a client is referred by an Athens State University staff member, communication regarding pertinent treatment considerations will be maintained with that professional unless the client specifies to the contrary.

A primary provision of my responsibility is to protect your right to privacy. In order to meet this obligation, I must keep all details of our counseling relationship, including anything you tell me, in strict confidence, unless I have your expressed written permission to inform or consult with someone else. I may consult with colleagues for supervision and with the understanding that I will not disclose your name or other identifiable personal information. I have a "duty to protect" clients and others from harm. Because of this, my responsibility to protect my client's confidentiality has a few exceptions to their control regarding releasing information:

1. I must disclose information to a third party if I learn of any potential abuse or neglect of a child or elderly person, or if I learn that you pose a threat of danger to yourself or any other person. Alabama law requires the suspicion of child abuse or neglect to be reported to the Department of Human Resources.
2. If I receive information confirming you have a disease known to be communicable and fatal, I must disclose this to a third party who by his/her relationship with you is at high risk of contracting the disease. Before making the disclosure, I must first determine that you have not already informed the third party, and that you have no intention to do so.
3. Under some circumstances, a court order may be used to subpoena client information from a file or require the testimony of a counselor.
4. I will not disclose any information without first consulting my colleagues or other professionals regarding the validity of these exceptions mentioned above.

Fees for Service

If you are a student at Athens State University, there are no fees involved with your counseling sessions. However, because the counselor time on campus is limited, those students in emergency situations will be given priority.

I agree that I have read and fully understand the contents of this document and sign voluntarily.

Date

Client Signature

Date

Counselor Signature