



PRIDE CENTER
of STATEN ISLAND
Staten Island's LGBT Community Center

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING AGREEMENT

The Pride Center of Staten Island (including its counseling services staff and interns, as well as other employees, "PCSI") offers free mental health counseling services for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. The PCSI mental health counseling program aims to:

- Promote the mental and emotional well-being of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies,
- Enhance client functioning and personal well-being,
- Provide a warm, empathetic, and judgment-free space for clients, and
- Help clients connect with other health care providers, as necessary.

This Mental Health Counseling Agreement ("Counseling Agreement") provides information regarding PCSI mental health counseling for clients who would like to receive counseling services. Please read this Counseling Agreement carefully. You must sign this Counseling Agreement prior to receiving mental health counseling services at PCSI.

Benefits of Counseling. Through your participation in mental health counseling at PCSI, we aim to help you resolve the concerns that you bring to counseling. Your participation in counseling may also help you develop a better ability to cope with marital, family, and other interpersonal relationships, as well as a greater understanding of your personal goals and values.

Risks of Counseling. There are certain risks involved in receiving mental health counseling. You may experience a variety of negative emotions during counseling as you remember and therapeutically resolve unpleasant events. Seeking to resolve concerns between family members, marital partners, and others can lead to discomfort as well as relationship changes that may not have been originally intended. Please keep in mind that mental health counseling may not, by itself, resolve your concerns. Your PCSI counselor may refer you to other resources, as appropriate, to support your mental health.

Cost of Service. The mental health counseling services provided at PCSI are free of charge.

Privacy. PCSI is committed to protecting your privacy and understands the importance of safeguarding your personal information. The ways PCSI may use or disclose your individually identifiable health information are described in the Notice of Privacy Practices. By signing below, you agree that you have received a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices and consent to the practices described there.

Code of Conduct. All PCSI mental health counseling clients are required to abide by the Code of Conduct. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have received a copy of the Code of Conduct

and agree to its terms. If PCSI determines that you have violated the Code of Conduct, your access to certain PCSI services may be restricted.

Referrals. If your mental health counselor determines in their clinical judgment that you would benefit from services furnished by other health care providers or organizations, PCSI may refer you to those services. For example, if your counselor believes that you would benefit from substance use treatment services, PCSI may refer you to a substance use treatment provider. Similarly, if your counselor believes that you would benefit from psychiatric treatment, PCSI may refer you to a psychiatrist. If PCSI refers you to a different health care provider or other services, you may be unable to continue to receive mental health counseling at PCSI.

Termination of Counseling. PCSI reserves the right to terminate the provision of mental health counseling services to any client at any time. If PCSI determines that it is no longer feasible or appropriate for PCSI to provide you with mental health counseling, PCSI will notify you and refer you to other services, as needed. If you can no longer receive mental health counseling at PCSI, you may still be able to participate in other PCSI programming, such as support groups, as determined by PCSI.

Crisis Services. If you are experiencing a crisis, please do not call PCSI. We are not open 24 hours a day and your voicemail may not be heard in a timely manner. If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911 immediately, go to the nearest emergency room, and/or call the NYC Well Crisis Line at (888) 692-9355 or the National Suicide Prevention Line at (800) 273-8255.

Cancellations. If you need to cancel a counseling appointment, please let us know at least 24 hours prior to your appointment time. PCSI will also make every effort to notify you at least 24 hours before your appointment time if we need to reschedule. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have received a copy of the Missed Appointment/Cancellation Policy and you agree to its terms.

Questions and Support. If you have questions or would like to contact PCSI, you may reach us at SMO-info@pridecentersi.org or by phone at (718) 808-1361. Please be aware that we are often not immediately available by phone. If you leave us a voicemail, we will do our best to respond to you within 48 hours. If you are difficult to reach, please inform us of times when you may be available.

By signing below, you agree that:

- You have read this Counseling Agreement and understand the information contained within it.
- You accept this Counseling Agreement and agree to abide by its terms.
- You have received a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices, the Code of Conduct, and the Missed Appointment/Cancellation Policy and agree to the terms described in those documents.
- You consent to receive counseling services at PCSI.

Client or Legal Representative Signature

Date

Counseling Staff Member Signature

Date