

Community Counseling Services Center

Informed Consent Information – for Counseling In Person at the CCSC

Please read the following items and ask any questions that you have of your counselor

1. Services offered at The George Washington University Community Counseling Services Center (CCSC) are targeted for residents of the Washington Metropolitan Area and GWU Students and Alumni. The counseling service will be rendered by graduate Counselor Interns from the Department of Counseling and Human Development at The George Washington University. To ensure quality service to the public, all counseling sessions are recorded and reviewed by faculty, doctoral level supervisors and other counseling interns as required for instruction, during group supervision. Strict confidentiality of recorded session is maintained by CCSC.
2. For couples: To assure clinical coordination of treatment across couple, family, group, and individual counseling, CCSC records are viewed and discussed by clinic personnel as needed.
3. The assistance offered at the CCSC is designed to help clients make decisions, enhance self-understanding, and/or adjust to learning, career, personal, relationship, or family problems. A client seeking assistance at the CCSC should possess the necessary qualities to address and resolve the client's problems. Therefore, the client is encouraged and expected to make all final decisions. The role of the CCSC Counselor Intern is one of objective facilitation through professional counseling.
4. Counselor Interns are required to record all counseling sessions. This is done in order to maximize the quality of services received. The client must provide written consent prior to any digital recording. The recordings are destroyed at the conclusion of the student's practicum/internship.
5. Because CCSC is a training facility, the intake session and the following initial four sessions will be used to determine if the CCSC is a good match for individuals and can provide services that meet client needs and presenting issues. During the course of counseling, if it is determined that the training clinic is not the best source of treatment for the client and a higher level of care, such as hospitalization or more advanced counseling skills are needed, the Counselor Intern, in consultation with supervisors, will provide the client with a referral to another mental health or career counseling service provider in the area.
6. All CCSC Counselor Interns will be guided by and are instructed to follow the American Counseling Association Ethical Standards.
7. A client may be requested to complete the Brief Symptom Inventory and the Schwartz Outcome Scale. These instruments give the Counselor Intern an overview of how the client is feeling and thinking during the last week. The use of the instruments is for training purposes only, ergo, may or may not be shared with the client.
8. All counseling and supervisory relationships, as well as storage and disposal of records, will be kept confidential within legal and ethical limitations. Unless the client poses harm to the Counselor Intern, the client will be informed when information regarding the client will be released. Information may be released *without the written consent* of the client in the following circumstances:
 - a. The client poses harm to himself/herself or another person
 - b. Suspicion that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk for abuse or neglect
 - c. The client is under the age of 16 and has been sexually or physically abused, raped, or the victim of another crime
 - d. When information is ordered by a court subpoena
 - e. The client requests through writing that confidential information about the counseling sessions be released
9. Deception in any form will not knowingly be used as a form of treatment.
10. A primary goal of intervention at the CCSC is for the client to be able to live effectively within his or her own value system.
11. Effectiveness of intervention with individuals is greatest when clients share all information related to the problem(s).
12. Counselor interns do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.) because it may compromise the client's confidentiality and blur the boundaries of the therapeutic relationship.
13. Clients in a helping relationship with another human services professional must inform all professionals involved. If the client has received mental health services from another provider, or if the client is currently or in the future will receive psychiatric services for an evaluation or medication management, the client will be requested to complete a Release of Information form authorizing the Counselor Intern to consult with the mental health provider to better coordinate services and optimize treatment.

