

**Families First Therapy, LLC**  
Information Sheet

**Client Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender Identity:  Male  Female  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Biological Sex  Male  Female

*Email, text messaging, and other electronic communications are not secure mediums and therefore, confidentiality cannot be assured. Please use discretion when sending information that is sensitive in nature.*

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ May I leave a message? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ May I text you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Significant Relationships: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ May I email you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Member(s) Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender Identity:  Male  Female  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Biological Sex  Male  Female

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ May I leave a message? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ May I text you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Significant Relationships: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ May I email you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender Identity:  Male  Female  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Biological Sex  Male  Female

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ May I leave a message? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ May I text you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Significant Relationships: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ May I email you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact(s):**

	Ok to Contact?	Yes _____ No _____
_____ (Name)	_____ (Relationship)	_____ (Telephone Num.)
	Ok to Contact?	Yes _____ No _____
_____ (Name)	_____ (Relationship)	_____ (Telephone Num.)
Primary Language: _____	Proficiency of reading / writing: _____	

**Insurance / Payment Information:**

Payment Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Self Pay \_\_\_\_\_ Sliding Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Client's Relationship to the Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Self  Partner  Dependent  
Policy Holder's DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Member #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Holder's SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Group #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Holder's Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Referral Information:**

How did you hear about this practice? \_\_\_\_\_

# Families First Therapy, LLC

## Client Intake Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire before your first appointment. This helps me complete an intake assessment and get an overall picture of your current struggles and strengths. While some of these questions may seem like asking a lot of information, most of these questions are required by the norms of the counseling field in order to provide you the best possible service. Thanks!

**Reason for seeking counseling:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenting Concerns (please check all that apply)**

- |                                                                     |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal Thoughts                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Anger / Aggression / Violence     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problems with Child / Children: _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Child Conflict           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defiance / Oppositionality                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Struggles                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety / Worries                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug / Alcohol Use Concerns       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confusion                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Addiction                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depression                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating Habits / Problems          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty Being Alone                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lying Frequently                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Perfectionism                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guilt / Shame                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Physically Abusive to Self        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Voices / Hallucinations            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shy, Uneasy with Others           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memory / Concentration Problems            | <input type="checkbox"/> Passive / Unassertive             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mood Swings                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Unwanted Behavior / Habits        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motivation Reduced / Absent                | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obsessive Thoughts                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment / School Issues        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panic (or Anxiety) Attacks                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Problems                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Abuse                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Living Arrangements               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Self-Esteem                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Money Management Issues           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Abuse                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting Issues                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleep Problems                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship / Marital Issues     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trauma / PTSD                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting / Self-Harm               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Struggles Attaching / Having Relationships | <input type="checkbox"/> Existential / Spiritual Struggles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grief and Loss                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce / Separation              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coming out / GLBTQ Concerns                | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Struggles           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unusual Thoughts                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Weight Changes                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                               | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Increase _____ Decrease     |

**Prior Behavioral Health Experiences**

**1. Outpatient Counseling (most recent, to first)**

Dates: From – To	Clinic	Therapist	Reason / Results (How was it?)

**2. Intensive Treatment (including residential treatment, treatment foster care, and hospitalizations)**

Dates: From – To	Clinic	Therapist	Reason / Results (How was it?)

**Medical History (current and in the past)**

Medical Conditions in the lasts year: \_\_\_\_\_

Chronic Illnesses: \_\_\_\_\_

Surgeries: \_\_\_\_\_

Head Injuries (TBI diagnosed or otherwise): \_\_\_\_\_

Disabilities (physical or developmental): \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Advanced Directives (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Medication	Dose/Frequency	Start Date	End Date	Reason for RX	Prescribed By

**Drug and Alcohol Use History:**

Past Use	Type	Quantity	Frequency	Date Started (If applicable)	Date Ended (If applicable)
Alcohol					
Tobacco					
Non-Prescribed Drugs					

Have there been any undesirable results of your drug or alcohol use? [ YES ] [ No ]

(struggles at school / job, physical health problems, relationship problems, legal problems)

Have you ever been concerned about your drug or alcohol use? [ YES ] [ No ]

Have others expressed concern about your drug or alcohol use? [ YES ] [ No ]

Have others you are close to struggled with problems related to drug or alcohol use? [ YES ] [ No ]

Have you ever attended a 12-step support group (AA, NA, Al-Anon, etc.)? [ YES ] [ No ]

Are you currently attending a 12-step support group? [ YES ] [ No ]

Describe your daily caffeine consumption (tea, coffee, energy drinks, chocolate, soda): \_\_\_\_\_

**Education and Employment (if applicable):**

**1. Education History**

Highest level of education to date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School / Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Employment History**

Are you currently employed? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any concerns about employment? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Military Experience**

Have you been in any branch of the military? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes: Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

# Families First Therapy, LLC

## Family Member Intake Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire before your first appointment. This helps me complete an intake assessment and get an overall picture of your current struggles and strengths. While some of these questions may seem like asking a lot of information, most of these questions are required by the norms of the counseling field in order to provide you the best possible service. Thanks!

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- |                                                                     |                                                                     |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Perfectionism                              |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Grief and Loss                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce / Separation                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coming out / GLBTQ Concerns                | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Struggles                    |
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**Prior Behavioral Health Experiences**

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Tobacco					
Non-Prescribed Drugs					

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(struggles at school / job, physical health problems, relationship problems, legal problems)

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Have others expressed concern about your drug or alcohol use? [ YES ] [ No ]

Have others you are close to struggled with problems related to drug or alcohol use? [ YES ] [ No ]

Have you ever attended a 12-step support group (AA, NA, Al-Anon, etc.)? [ YES ] [ No ]

Are you currently attending a 12-step support group? [ YES ] [ No ]

Describe your daily caffeine consumption (tea, coffee, energy drinks, chocolate, soda): \_\_\_\_\_

**Education and Employment (if applicable):**

**1. Education History**

Highest level of education to date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School / Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Employment History**

Are you currently employed? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any concerns about employment? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Military Experience**

Have you been in any branch of the military? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes: Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

# Family Outcome Rating Scale (ORS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age (Yrs): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Session # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is filling out this form? Please check one: Self \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If other, what is your relationship to this person? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Looking back over the last week, including today, help us understand how you have been feeling by rating how well you have been doing in the following areas of your life, where marks to the left represent low levels and marks to the right indicate high levels. *If you are filling out this form for another person, please fill out according to how you think he or she is doing.*

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## Individually

(Personal well-being)

|-----|

## Interpersonally

(Family, close relationships)

|-----|

## Socially

(Work, school, friendships)

|-----|

## Overall

(General sense of well-being)

|-----|

International Center for Clinical Excellence

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[www.scottdmiller.com](http://www.scottdmiller.com)

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# Families First Therapy, LLC

## CONSENT TO TREATMENT

It is the policy of Families First Therapy LLC that clients have the right to say whether or not they wish to receive Outpatient services. Each client has impartial access to treatment, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, ethnicity, age, sexual preference or disability, within the range and diagnostic criteria for which Families First Therapy LLC provides treatment.

The undersigned acknowledges that Families First Therapy LLC makes no guarantees to the undersigned or the client as to the results or likelihood of success of Families First Therapy LLC services.

The undersigned acknowledges that if a client becomes dangerous to him/herself or to others, the staff will exercise the necessary precautions in order to protect the client or others.

The undersigned acknowledges receiving a copy of information about Families First Therapy including policies and procedures, Informed Consent, HIPPA compliance protocols, and Notice of Privacy Practices.

The undersigned releases Families First Therapy LLC staff from any liability for the loss or damage of personal property and/or money while receiving services at Families First Therapy LLC or at the client's home.

**These services are completely voluntary:**

**Yes; I Consent** to receive outpatient services from Families First Therapy LLC for myself or on the behalf of the client.

**No; I Do Not Consent** to receive outpatient services from Families First Therapy LLC for myself or on the behalf of the client. Referrals for outside services or alternative services can be supplied upon request.

*My signature below attests to the fact that I have read this form, understand its content and request that the above information be released as specified.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLIENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

*I have discussed the notice of privacy practices, informed consent, consent to treatment, consent to policies and disclosure to insurance company, consent to payment policies, consent to family therapy, consent to cancellation policy, and client rights and responsibilities with the client and their family member(s). My observations of their behavior and responses give me reason to believe that these people are fully competent to give informed and willing consent. My signature below attests to this statement.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN RATCLIFF, MA, LPCC

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Cell (505) 504-5449  
Fax (844) 840-7345

[www.familiesfirsttherapy.org](http://www.familiesfirsttherapy.org)  
steve@familiesfirsttherapy.org

# Families First Therapy, LLC

## CONSENT TO POLICIES AND CONSENT TO DISCLOSURE TO INSURANCE COMPANY

Thank you for choosing Families First Therapy as your therapy provider. Please review carefully the consent to disclosure to insurance companies (if applicable) and receipt of notice of privacy practices below. If you agree to each item, please have all involved family members and client initial next to each statement indicating your agreement and sign at the bottom.

### RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that I have been provided a Notice of Privacy Practices that fully explains the uses and disclosures that Families First Therapy will make with respect to my individually identifiable health information. I understand that I have the right to review said notice before signing this consent. Additional copies of this notice are posted on the website [www.familiesfirsttherapy.org](http://www.familiesfirsttherapy.org) and also in the office lobby. I also understand that Families First Therapy reserves the right to change its notice and the practices detailed therein prospectively, and will notify me of any changes.

### RECEIPT AND CONSENT TO INFORMED CONSENT AND ADDITIONAL POLICIES

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that I have been provided and reviewed a copy of Informed Consent, additional privacy policies and cancellation and no show policy. I understand these policies and agree to abide by the boundaries and stipulations therein.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand privacy concerns pertaining to technology and electronic communications.

### CONSENT TO DISCLOSURE TO INSURANCE COMPANY (IF APPLICABLE; OPTIONAL)

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I do not have to consent to the uses or disclosure of my individually identifiable health information for treatment, payment, and health-care operation. I also understand that if I do not consent, Families First Therapy may refuse to provide me health-care services unless applicable state or federal law requires Families First Therapy to provide such services.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I may revoke this consent in writing, but that the revocation will not be effective to the extent that Families First Therapy has already taken action in reliance on my earlier effective consent.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that as part of my healthcare, Families First Therapy originates and maintains health records describing my health history, symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment and any plans for future care or treatment. I understand that this information serves as:

- A basis for planning my care and treatment.
- A means of communication among health professionals who contribute to my care.
- A source of information for applying my diagnosis information to my bill.
- A means by which a third-party payer can verify that services billed were actually provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if my medical insurance company is providing payment for services rendered at Families First Therapy, the following disclosures of my identifiable health information may apply:

- Families First Therapy will have to release information including dates of sessions, CPT codes billed, and diagnostic information about me to my insurance company, or their legal representative in order to obtain payment.
- If records are requested by my insurance company as a requirement to process payment for services rendered, Families First Therapy will attempt to notify me of the documents being disclosed and permit me to review them prior to their disclosure. Documents may include any documents generated by Families First Therapy about me.
- I will have to authorize my insurance company to make benefits payable to Families First Therapy.

*My signature below attests to the fact that I have read this form, understand its content, and agree to these conditions.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLIENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN RATCLIFF, MA, LPCC

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Cell (505) 504-5449  
Fax (844) 840-7345

[www.familiesfirsttherapy.org](http://www.familiesfirsttherapy.org)  
steve@familiesfirsttherapy.org



# Families First Therapy, LLC

Please review carefully the boundaries and expectations outlined below. Please initial next to each statement indicating your agreement and sign at the bottom. These are considered a necessary condition for treatment.

## CONSENT TO PAYMENT POLICIES

### PAYMENT POLICIES

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that all Copays, Deductible payments, Self-pay, or Sliding-scale fees are due at the time or service. If my insurance company denies paying for my services or indicates a deductible payment or different copay amount than indicates on my insurance card, then these payments are due five business days after I am invoiced.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I don't have insurance, I will be expected to pay the noted fee (or sliding scale fee) for these services at each appointment. Any payments may be made via cash, check, or credit card.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the full-scale fees for services are as follows: Individual / Family Intake Appointment **\$130**, Subsequent Individual / Family Appointments **\$110** per hour, and Couples / Relationship Counseling **\$90** per hour and a one time **\$30** fee for the Gottman Relationship Checkup Assessment Measures.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that any balances not paid within 30 calendar days may be turned over to collections with an additional 2% late fee added. I understand that if my bill must be turned over to collections due to not paying my balance after 30 calendar days, I am responsible for the collections fees (typically 40% of the total bill).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if payment for the services I receive is not made, the therapist may stop my treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I pay by check or credit card and the payment is later recouped (e.g. the check bounces), a fee of **\$30** will be added to the balance. I understand that this balance must be paid by alternative means in 5 days.

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that any out of session communication (telephone call or other medium) lasting more than 5 minutes will result in a fee of **\$25** per 15 minutes. There will be no fee for contacts lasting less than 5 minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that other services such as record preparation, report writing, and other documentation are charged at the rate of **\$25** per 15 minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I choose to subpoena Stephen Ratcliff, all legal services including preparation time, testimony time, transportation time, and commute time will incur a fee of **\$300** due prior to testimony date.

## CONSENT TO CANCELLATION POLICY

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I am unable to attend my scheduled therapy appointment, I must first notify Families First Therapy by email or at 505-504-5449 by text or voicemail 24 hours in advance of my appointment.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I do not call to cancel or reschedule my appointment, this will be considered a **no-show**. Additionally, arriving later than 20 minutes for my scheduled therapy appointment time constitutes a no-show. No-shows to appointments are not covered by my health insurance and will result in a subsequent fee. The fee is **\$25** for all clients.

\_\_\_\_\_ If extenuating circumstances arise and I cancel in advance of my appointment but not with 24 hours notice, Families First Therapy may choose to waive this fee on a case-by-case basis.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I miss my scheduled appointment, it is my responsibility to call to set up subsequent appointments. Failure to cancel with 24-hour prior notice *may* result in me losing my preferred time slot. If I am failing to maintain contact, Families First Therapy may take this as communication that I am terminating services.

*My signature below attests to the fact that I have read this form, understand its content, and agree to these conditions.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLIENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN RATCLIFF, MA, LPCC

Cell (505) 504-5449  
Fax (844) 840-7345

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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steve@familiesfirsttherapy.org

# Families First Therapy, LLC

## CLIENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Client's Rights

1. The right to efficient and equal service, regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnic background, education, social class, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status.
2. The right of considerate, courteous and respectful care from all Families First Therapy, LLC staff.
3. The right to informed consent and full discussion of risks and benefits prior to any invasive procedure, except in an emergency. Alternative to the proposed procedure must be discussed with the client.
4. The right to receive information in an understandable manner.
5. The right to obtain a referral for bi-lingual services or to have an interpreter present in session if needed.
6. The right to the names, titles, and professions of Families First Therapy, LLC staff with whom the client speaks and from whom services or information are received.
7. The right to refuse examination, discussion, and/or procedures to the extent permitted by law and to be informed of the health and legal consequences of this refusal.
8. The right of access to the client's own personal health record.
9. The right to confidentiality and privacy of the client's personal mental health records as provided by the law. The details of the clients life and treatment are shared only with the client's parent's or guardian's permission and the client's explicit consent.
10. The right to expect reasonable continuity of care within the scope of services of Families First Therapy, LLC.
11. The right to examine and receive a full explanation of any charges made by Families First Therapy, LLC regardless of the source of payment.
12. The right of respect for the client's civil rights and religious opinions.
13. The right to be represented by a family member or guardian if the client is unable to fully participate in treatment decisions.

### Client's Responsibilities

1. Provide accurate and complete information relevant to your treatment at Families First Therapy, LLC.
2. Ask questions if you do not understand any aspect of your treatment.
3. Report safety concerns immediately to your therapist.
4. Avoid drugs, alcoholic beverages or toxic substances while in attendance of your therapy session.
5. Accept the consequences if you do not follow the care, service, or treatment plan provided to you.
6. Respect the property of other people and of Families First Therapy, LLC.
7. Be considerate of other clients.
8. Sign a written acknowledgement that you have received the applicable Notice of Privacy Practices.
9. Provide accurate information needed for processing your insurance coverage.
10. Be responsible for payment of all services, either through your third party payers (insurance company) or by personally making payment for any service that are not covered by your insurance policy(s) including second opinions or consultations.

*By signing below, I acknowledge my client's rights and responsibilities listed herein.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLIENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
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# Families First Therapy, LLC

## INFORMED CONSENT FOR FAMILY COUNSELING

### General Information

Please review the following boundaries and information carefully and thoroughly. Please feel free to ask any questions!

- I utilize Gottman method family therapy and supplement with a number of other tools including an eclectic mix. I seek to create a client-focused approach that builds on your family's strengths and to tailor treatment to your unique situation and struggles. For more information on Gottman method, please see this website ([www.gottman.com](http://www.gottman.com)).
- Once we have started Family therapy, I will be unable to offer individual therapy for any of the relationship members. This is due to a conflict of interest. I would be happy to offer a referral if desired however.
- In family therapy, the family is the client rather than any of the family's members.

### Expectations of the Process

- I will never try to force a certain goal on you and your family. The decision of what goal to focus on in your family is yours to make and my job is to support your family in accomplishing these goals.
- While I seek to support you in your family's relationship goals, I cannot guarantee any outcome from the treatment process.
- The continued participation by all members of the relationship is voluntary. Any participant may suspend or terminate the therapy at his or her individual request at any time.

### Unique limitations regarding Confidentiality

Due to family work involving two or more people, the following information is important to clarify at the beginning of therapy.

- In order for counseling information or records to be released, all members of the family must provide their written authorization. Since the family is the client, one member's desire to have information released is not sufficient. If all participating members of the family (as identified below) do not provide consents, then records will not be released.
- Because there are two or more individuals who are the focus of treatment, privilege cannot be guaranteed. This means that confidentiality is somewhat more limited compared to individual therapy where information disclosed is considered privileged. Thus anything involved with family counseling may not be privileged communication.
- I receive occasional professional consultation to help me improve my provision of services. Neither your name nor any identifying information about you and your family are revealed during these consultations.
- Because the process of family therapy involves a high amount of vulnerability in the efforts to build a closer emotional bond in the family, it is understood that all partners will not use the information disclosed during the therapy process against any other partner in a judicial setting of any kind, be it civil, criminal, or circuit. Likewise neither party shall for any reason attempt to subpoena my testimony or my records to be presented in a deposition or court hearing of any kind for any reason, such as a divorce or custody case.
- Because of the limitations due to my scope of practice, I am unable to make any kind of formal recommendation or state any opinion regarding child custody (Custody recommendations are only permitted by a psychologist custody evaluator).

### No Secrets Boundary

My allegiance is to your family and not to any of the members of your family as individuals. I find this is particularly important in creating a space where all partners can feel safe. Therefore, I adhere to a strict "No Secrets" policy. This means that I will not hold secrets for any family member. This policy is intended to allow me to continue to treat the family by preventing, to the extent possible, a conflict of interest to arise where an individual's interests may not be consistent with the interests of the family being treated.

*I affirm that I have read, fully understand, and agree with the Informed Consent for Relationship Counseling. I also affirm that a representative of Families First Therapy, LLC has answered all of my questions about these policies.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLIENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN RATCLIFF, MA, LPCC

Cell (505) 504-5449  
Fax (844) 840-7345

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

[www.familiesfirsttherapy.org](http://www.familiesfirsttherapy.org)  
steve@familiesfirsttherapy.org

# Families First Therapy, LLC

## PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN COORDINATION OF CARE RELEASE FORM

CLIENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS WILL AUTHORIZE: Families First Therapy, LLC

Tel. (505) 504-5449; Fax (505) 242-4076

TO RELEASE TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Facility, organization, individual receiving information)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone, fax, address)

**Cancellation / Expiration:** I understand that I may cancel this authorization at any time by sending my health providers my cancellation notice in writing. I understand that my health care providers may have already released records according to this authorization prior to receiving my notice of cancellation.

**This authorization shall remain valid for one year from the date of signature unless revoked in writing by the client's guardian or conservator.** This authorization releases Families First Therapy, Inc. from any and all legal liability that may arise as a result of compliance with this release of information request.

**I authorize** Families First Therapy, LLC to have contact and release medical records to the Physician noted above.

**I specifically authorize the release of my medical records to include the following records (initial):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ HIV / AIDS results and treatments
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sexually transmitted or "communicable" disease Information
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prescription Drug Information
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drug, alcohol, or substance abuse Information
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mental health Information (other than psychotherapy notes)

**I do not authorize** Families First Therapy, LLC to release medical records.

*My signature below attests to the fact that I have read this form, understand its content and request that the above information be released as specified.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLIENT SIGNATURE (14 YEARS OR OLDER)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER (14 YEARS OR OLDER)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBER (14 YEARS OR OLDER)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

*I have discussed the above form and what information may or may not be disclosed with the client and their family member(s). My observations of their behavior and responses give me reason to believe that these people are fully competent to give informed and willing consent. My signature below attests to this statement.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN RATCLIFF, MA, LPCC

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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Fax (844) 840-7345

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