

Gulf Coast Psychotherapy, LLC
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SMS/Text Messaging opt in or opt out

Text messaging has become a staple of modern communication, even within healthcare settings. We recognize the importance of timely, and convenient communication, and we will be offering text messaging as an option between our clients, administrative staff, and therapists. **This is absolutely on a voluntary basis. One can opt in or opt out at any time. In the event of an emergency, texting should never be used as a first line of communication. In the event of an emergency please call our office at 941-219-3111. If it is outside of regular office hours please choose the emergency option and phone your therapists emergency number or dial 911.**

Communication via text will be governed by HIPPA guidelines. We will never include full client names, diagnosis or other detailed identifiable information via text unless it is to secure the safety of the client and or others.

If I volunteer to opt in to texting via this form, I agree to receive text messages from Gulf Coast Psychotherapy, LLC. Message frequency varies. Message & data rates may apply. Reply STOP to opt-out at any time or HELP for more information. I also take full responsibility for providing and updating accurate contact information to be used for texting purposes.

Infrastructure security:

Our service provider offers the following infrastructure safeguards:

- Network and applications: firewalls and session border controllers
- Administrative functions: multiple authentication levels
- Technology: intrusion-detection systems and fraud analytics
- Operational functions: monitoring, system hardening, and vulnerability scans.

We regularly undergo independent verification of our security controls to protect our customers' data and communications and to meet regulatory and compliance needs. We also review all policies with all staff on an ongoing basis.

As with every electronic communication, despite the steps that we and our service provider are taking to secure the information exchanged, there are always risks of security breaches beyond our control. By signing this authorization, you are stating that you are aware that all electronic communication inherently has a risk of security breaches and accept these risks and will not hold Gulf Coast Psychotherapy (GCP) liable for any breaches in security.

It is very important for you to take steps to safeguard your devices including the use of malware, spyware, and virus protection. Also change your passwords frequently, log out of your devices and apps when messaging has concluded, do not share passwords with anyone. This is not a complete list of steps that can be taken. Please take every measure to secure your devices and data.

I have read this document in full, and I am voluntarily opting **IN** to text messaging services with and between myself at the following phone number (s) _____.

I have read this document in full, and I am voluntarily opting **OUT** to text messaging services

Patient or guardian signature

Date