

Barton Creek Counseling PLLC

1715 S. Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 200 A
Austin, Texas 78746

Mark Lynn LCSW (512) 743-2059
Leigh Germann LCSW (512) 565-8013

Informed Consent

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND CLIENT CONSENT: Please read and sign at the end stating you have fully read and understand the information below.

Professionals Include:

Mark Lynn LCSW
Leigh Germann LCSW

CLIENT/THERAPIST RELATIONSHIP: You and your therapist have a professional relationship existing exclusively for therapeutic treatment. This relationship functions most effectively when it remains strictly professional and involves only the therapeutic aspect. Your therapist can best serve your needs by focusing solely on therapy and avoiding any type of social or business relationship. Gifts are not appropriate, nor is any sort of trade of service for service.

AVAILABLE SERVICES: Barton Creek Counseling offers a wide array of counseling services, including individual, family, and couples services. We are staffed by skilled and experienced licensed clinical social workers. Effective psychotherapy is founded on mutual understanding and good rapport between client and therapist. It is our intent to convey the policies and procedures used in our practice, and we will be pleased to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

RISKS AND BENEFITS: Counseling and psychotherapy are beneficial, but as with any treatment, there are inherent risks. During counseling, you will have discussions about personal issues which may bring to the surface uncomfortable emotions such as anger, guilt, and sadness. The benefits of counseling can far outweigh any discomfort encountered during the process, however. Some of the possible benefits are improved personal relationships, reduced feelings of emotional distress, and specific problem solving. We cannot guarantee these benefits, of course. It is our desire, however, to work with you to attain your personal goals for counseling and/or psychotherapy.

COUNSELING: We provide counseling designed to address many of the issues our clients are dealing with. The goal of Barton Creek Counseling is to provide the most effective therapeutic experience available to you. If at any time you feel that you and your current therapist are not a good fit, please discuss this matter with your therapist to determine if transferring to a more suitable therapist is right for you. If you and your therapist decide that other services would be more appropriate, we will do our best to assist you in finding a provider to meet your needs.

APPOINTMENTS: Appointments are typically scheduled on a weekly basis and are approximately 50 minutes long for individuals and 80 minutes long for couples. More frequent sessions may be available if determined appropriate by your therapist. If you must cancel or reschedule your appointment, we ask that you call at least 24 hours in advance. This will free your appointment time for another client. If you fail to notify Barton Creek Counseling 24 hours prior to your scheduled time of a cancellation, you will be charged the full rate for your missed session.

FEE SCHEDULE:	Diagnostic & Evaluation Session- 75 minutes (1 st visit)	\$ 225.00
	Regular Sessions- 50 minutes (Individuals)	\$ 150.00
	Marital Sessions- 75 minutes (Couples)	\$ 225.00
	Returned check fee (per check)	\$ 25.00

A reasonable fee will be charged for copies of any records requested by the Client.

PAYMENT/INSURANCE FILING: Payment of fees is expected at the time of each appointment. If you are using a Managed Care/PPO/HMO insurance plan and wish to file your own claim, we expect full payment at the time of service, and we will provide you with a statement for services rendered.

EMERGENCIES: If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or have someone take you to the nearest emergency room for help. You may encounter a personal emergency which is not considered a life-threatening emergency, that will require prompt attention. In this event, please contact your therapist regarding the nature and urgency of the circumstances. We will make every attempt to schedule you as soon as possible or to offer other options. If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or have someone take you to the nearest emergency room for help.

GIFTS: It is the policy of this agency that no therapist is allowed to accept gifts of any kind from clients.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Barton Creek Counseling follows all ethical standards prescribed by state and federal law. We are required by practice guidelines and standards of care to keep records of your counseling. These records are confidential with the exceptions noted below and in the Notice of Privacy Practices provided.

Discussions between a therapist and a client are confidential. No information will be released without the client's written consent unless mandated by law. **Possible exceptions to confidentiality include but are not limited to the following situations: child abuse; abuse of the elderly or disabled; abuse of patients in mental health facilities; sexual exploitation; AIDS/HIV infection and possible transmission; criminal prosecutions; child custody cases; suits in which the mental health of a party is in issue;** situations where the therapist has a duty to disclose, or where, in the therapist's judgment, it is necessary to warn or disclose; fee disputes between the therapist and the client; a negligence suit brought by the client against the therapist; or the filing of a complaint with the licensing or certifying board. If you have any questions regarding confidentiality, you should bring them to the attention of the therapist when you and the therapist discuss this matter further. By signing this Information and Consent Form, you are giving consent to the undersigned therapist to share confidential information with all persons mandated by law and with the agency that referred you and the insurance carrier responsible for providing your mental health care services and payment for those services, and you are also releasing and holding harmless the undersigned therapist from any departure from your right of confidentiality that may result.

DUTY TO WARN/DUTY TO PROTECT: If my therapist believes that I (or my child if child is the client) am in any physical or emotional danger to myself or another human being, I hereby specifically give consent to my therapist to contact the any person who is in a position to prevent harm to me or another, including, but not limited to, the person in danger. I also give consent to my therapist to contact the following person(s) in addition to any medical or law enforcement personnel deemed appropriate:

Name	Telephone Number
_____	_____
_____	_____

CONSENT TO TREATMENT: By signing this Client Information and Consent Form as the Client or Guardian of said Client, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions contained in this form. I have been given appropriate opportunity to address any questions or request clarification for anything that is unclear to me. I am voluntarily agreeing to receive mental health assessment, treatment and services for me, and I understand that I may stop such treatment or services at any time.

Signature – Client	Date
_____	_____

Signature – Parent signature (if client is a minor)	Date
_____	_____

Therapist	Date
_____	_____