

Allen E. Rush, MA, LPC
4R Farm Equine-Assisted Counseling

AGREEMENT FOR COUNSELING SERVICES

1. **Description of Professional Services:** Counseling services may include the following: initial assessment, personal consultation, individual, relationship, and/or family counseling, referral to other professional services, and follow-up. All services are performed from a systemic, strengths-based perspective: determining the client's or family's resources, strengths, and abilities and then the facilitating use of those to construct solutions that begin to accomplish the client's or the family's goals.
2. **Appointments:** The first appointment is generally an initial assessment interview, which lasts approximately one hour. During this visit, we will discuss what the client or family wants to accomplish by coming for counseling, what necessitated the call for service, past attempts to resolve the problem, an assessment of the severity of the problem, the client's or family's strengths and resources, and an Action Plan, identifying treatment goals and tasks. Appointments are generally 45 to 60 minutes long.
3. **Duration of Counseling:** Counseling may be relatively brief (8 sessions or less) or it may continue for months or years, depending on the nature of the presenting problem. At the beginning of counseling, we develop an Action Plan and regularly review it to measure progress towards the client's or family's identified goals. When the client or family is satisfied that they have made significant progress in finding ways to achieve their goals, or they have achieved their goals, we usually decide to discontinue meeting.
4. **Confidentiality:** Professional ethics, state and federal law require strict confidentiality on information gathered as a result of counseling services rendered. Information about clients or families will not be discussed with anyone without written consent from the client or legally authorized representative, except as required by law, as follows: (1) if anyone reveals that he or she is in danger to self or others; (2) if abuse of a child, elderly, or disabled person is suspected; (3) if needed for claims payment by insurers or guarantors; (4) if needed when the provider is unavailable and another professional is designated "on call"; (5) if needed for purposes of hospitalization or emergency medical or psychiatric treatment; and (6) otherwise as required by law.
5. **Cancellations and Missed Appointments:** Clients are expected to notify the provider at least 24 hours in advance if they must cancel an appointment. The provider reserves the right to charge up to \$40 for missed appointments and appointments canceled with less than 24 hours' notice. If assessed, this fee is payable before the next appointment. You are responsible for this payment; insurance companies do not cover missed appointments or cancellations.
6. **Payment for Professional Services Rendered:** Payment is always due when services are rendered. Rates for all services are \$85 per hour (\$40 for self-referred youth), except when a reduced rate is negotiated between a client or insurance company and the provider. Clients may be charged for telephone contacts of longer than 10 minutes, meetings with other service providers, request reports or records, and travel related to out-of-office consultation; however, clients will be informed of such charges before they are assessed.

7. **Insurance:** It is the responsibility of the client to know his or her insurance benefits. The client is responsible for determining what the policy covers, including the types of diagnostic categories and the types of service. For example, some policies do not cover certain types of service, such as “family counseling.” Clients will be responsible for paying for services that exceed the benefits outlined in their policy.

8. **Overdue Accounts:** If a client has an unpaid balance, the provider will only reschedule further appointments when the client agrees to pay the entire amount due at the time of service. Accounts are considered delinquent after 30 days of nonpayment. Delinquent accounts will be turned over to a collection agency, with a surcharge of 35% added.

9. **Ethical and Professional Standards:** This provider adheres to the ethical guidelines and professional standards published by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. The state board regulates the practice of counseling in Texas. This provider participates in ongoing continuing education and renews his license in accordance with state regulations.

10. **Questions and Complaints:** Clients are encouraged to address all questions and complaints directly to the provider, Allen E. Rush, MA, LPC. Complaints, and questions about consumers’ rights, may also be addressed to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors at (800) 821-3205 or <https://www.bhec.texas.gov/discipline-and-complaints/index.html>.

11. **Client Follow-up:** Clients may be contacted at some point after discontinuing services for the purposes of quality control, practice development, or outcome research.

12. **Warning:** UNDER TEXAS LAW (CHAPTER 87, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE), A FARM ANIMAL PROFESSIONAL OR FARM OWNER OR LESSEE IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN FARM ANIMAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING AN EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF FARM ANIMAL ACTIVITIES.

CLIENT STATEMENT

My signature on the intake form attests to the following: (1) I have read this information, understand it, and consent to counseling services for myself and/or my family; (2) I authorize Allen E. Rush, MA, LPC to release any pertinent information acquired during the course of my evaluation and treatment to my insurance company; (3) I am ultimately responsible for payment of charges for services rendered by the provider; and (4) I understand that Allen E. Rush, MA, LPC is a sole practitioner in independent practice and is not part of a group practice.