

## **MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO CLIENTS**

On July 1, 1988, the State of Colorado adopted significant changes in laws regulating the practice of mental health professionals in Colorado (Article 43 of Title 12, Colorado Revised Statutes or C.R.S., 1985 Replacement Volume, as amended). Said changes in the law were adopted:

“Except in emergency situations of where psychotherapy is being administered pursuant to a court order, every unlicensed psychotherapist, licensee, or certified school psychologist practicing outside the school setting shall provide the following information in writing to each client...(12-43-101, C.R.S.)

“... in order to protect the people of the state against the unauthorized, unqualified, and improper application of psychotherapy, psychology, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and school psychology...(12-43-101, C.R.S.)

One aspect of the new law provided that clients be informed by those delivering mental health services, whether licensed or unlicensed, with certain information regarding therapist qualifications and patient rights. Failure to provide the required information is illegal.

### **Qualifications:**

Thomas J. Pals  
Licensed Professional Counselor (#3196)  
National Certified Counselor (Certificate #61038)

Degree(s):     Master of Arts in Counseling  
                      Master of Divinity

### **Patient Rights:**

As a client, you should be aware of the fact that the practice of both licensed and unlicensed mental health providers and certified school psychologists in the field of psychotherapy is regulated by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. Questions and complaints may be addressed to: The Department of Regulatory Agencies and/or The Grievance Board, 1560 Broadway, Rm. 1340, Denver, CO 80202 (303) 894-7766.

As a client you are entitled to receive information about the methods of therapy, the techniques used, the duration of therapy, if known, and the fee structure. Within the first two sessions, this information will be clearly provided to you. As a client you may seek a second opinion from another therapist or may terminate therapy at any time. In a professional relationship, sexual intimacy is never appropriate and should be reported to the Grievance Board.

The information provided by a client during therapy sessions is legally confidential in the case of psychologists, licensed marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, professional

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counselors, and certified school psychologists, except as provided in section 12-43-218 C.R.S. and except for certain legal exceptions which will be identified by the licensee or certified school psychologist should any such situation arise during therapy.

My/our signature(s) below acknowledges my/our having received a copy of this disclosure statement.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Client Signature	Date	Parent/Legal Guardian	Date

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Thomas J. Pals, L.P.C., N.C.C., M.A., M.DIV.