

## **Counselling Agreement** **Katherine Gregg Accredited Member BACP**

Agreement between (all given names) \_\_\_\_\_  
(referred to as “you”, “your” and “client”) and Inside Matters Counsellor /

Therapist, \_\_\_\_\_ (referred to as “I”, “me”, “my”, “therapist” and “  
Inside Matters Counselling”).

**Aim of Counselling:** The aim of counselling is to provide you, the client, with a confidential opportunity to explore personal and relational issues in safety. The role of Inside Matters Counselling is to help you through this process without judgement or telling you what to do. I may on occasions give information or offer suggestions. During counselling, we set goals agreed between the client and the therapist. The client agrees to work towards the agreed goals. If at any time I feel I can no longer help you, I will offer to refer you to someone who can.

I will provide, to the best of my ability, Counselling opportunities that endeavour to create a supportive, non-judgmental environment in which you will be given time and space to understand and gain insight into your situation. This process can foster growth and lead to positive change in your life. I will not be in a position to offer advice, but may offer an experience or theory. There may be occasions where I ask questions, this may be to seek a clearer view of your difficulty or to clarify a misunderstanding in our communication. You are free to ignore my questions and responses, or alternatively spend time between sessions reflecting on them.

**Description of therapy:** can be found at: [www.inside-matters.co.uk/counselling.html](http://www.inside-matters.co.uk/counselling.html)

**Confidentiality:** To ensure open exploration of the concerns that have brought you to therapy, Inside Matters Counselling maintains confidentiality in accordance with the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy(BACP)

Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling & Psychotherapy (Code of Ethics) – see [www.bacp.co.uk/ethical\\_framework](http://www.bacp.co.uk/ethical_framework). I am a member of the BACP and bound by their Code of Ethics.

Under the same BACP Code of Ethics, Inside Matters Counselling keeps client records (short summaries about what happens in session). We adhere to the Data Protection Act of 1998 see:- [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/contents).

**Exceptions to Confidentiality:** Inside Matters Counselling must pass on any information to the relevant authorities in cases where human safety is concerned including the following cases:

- If you threaten harm to yourself or to another person
- If we believe a child or protected adult is at risk of harm or abuse
- If you share information about a proposed act of terrorism or other illegal act

If Inside Matters Counselling feels that either you or someone else is in danger or at risk of harm I would first endeavour to discuss with you my decision for breaking confidentiality. Depending on the circumstances this may be your General Practitioner (GP), the individual in danger, a Social Worker and/or the Police. However, I retain the right to break confidentiality without prior consultation with you should I consider that the urgency of the situation requires me to act immediately to safeguard the physical safety of yourself or others.

In certain cases, you, the client, may request that Inside Matters Counselling share information concerning you.

**Confidentiality for Couples, Families, and Groups:** When couples, families, or groups meet for relationship Counselling at Inside Matters Counselling, sometimes the clients will meet all together for counselling and sometimes they may meet individually with the therapist. When individuals attend counselling sessions the therapist will not reveal any confidential information shared in an individual session with partners, other family or group members involved in relationship counselling without the prior written permission of that individual.

**Sessions:** Sessions last approximately 50 minutes. We will agree an appointment day and time which is mutually convenient, this could be weekly, fortnightly, more or less frequently if required. It is expected that the session will begin at the agreed time. Any session that begins after this time due to late client arrival for whatever reason cannot be extended beyond the agreed finish time.

If you have made payment for a session but are unable to make the appointed day due to unexpected circumstances, we would discuss how to re-arrange the scheduled appointment. If I do not hear from you within **24 hours** of the appointment day, I will retain the fee.

**Contact between sessions:** In instances where you need to contact me between sessions, calls can be made to 07946 540822. If I am unable to take your call, please leave a voice message. Calls and messages will be responded to as time permits between sessions within normal operating hours.

Counselling is not a crisis or emergency service. If you need to speak to someone urgently, please contact your GP, Samaritans on 08457 909090 or Sussex Mental Health on 0300 5000 101

**Cancellations:** You will not be charged for appointments missed due to illness. In an instance where no or insufficient notice is given on your part, I reserve the right to retain the session. In the event of a serious accident, emergency, or other similar situation outside your control, please deal with your situation first and notify me at the earliest convenient time.

I understand that your life circumstances may suddenly change. You may at any point desire or be obligated to discontinue therapy. Whatever the reason, I respect your decision but ask that you give one weeks' notice before finishing so that we have the chance to discuss your decision.

**Session Fees:** Session fees are £45 per 50 minute session. The fee is the same for individual or couple counselling session. Concessions are available for students, OAP's, anyone on a low income or receiving benefits.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

**Complaints:** Should you wish to make a complaint about the service you have been offered please contact the BACP at [www.bacp.co.uk](http://www.bacp.co.uk).

**Goals for therapy:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Inside Matters*      *Counselling*

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

GP name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Surgery Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surgery Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Therapist Signature \_\_\_\_\_