



Tele-counseling Informed Consent & Liability - Linton Public Schools #36

Dear Linton Public School families,

During the current school closure, we will provide limited tele-counseling services to your child. Mrs. Leier intends to maintain communication with students who may need counseling services at home. Our role is to provide your child with the additional support they need during this unprecedented public health situation. Whether your child needs a simple check-in or in-the-moment coping strategies, we are here to help.

Tele-counseling Sessions

Tele-counseling services provided by Mrs. Leier will require online access through www.zoom.us with a meeting code provided by the counselor, who will email the meeting code after a student requests a session via Remind or email. If possible, please include a brief description of the student's needs in the email/text request. An adult or older sibling should be available to help younger children request an appointment and sign into their session. Please note that Mrs. Leier's availability will be limited to certain hours and within the school day.

Confidentiality

As a general rule, Mrs. Leier will keep the information your child shares in sessions confidential, as would be expected in a traditional school setting. There are, however, important exceptions to this rule that are important for you to understand before your child shares personal information in a tele-counseling session. In some situations, we are required by law or by the guidelines of our profession to disclose sensitive information.

***Confidentiality cannot be maintained when:**

1. Your child discloses a plan to cause serious harm to themselves.**
2. Your child discloses a plan to cause harm to others.
3. Your child discloses they are being harmed by someone else.

If a child expresses suicidal ideation, the counselor will try all means to notify a parent/guardian. If they are unable to contact a parent/guardian, the counselor may call 9-1-1 to assist them in ensuring safety of the student. **Linton Public Schools assumes no liability for costs associated with an emergency call.

An exception to this rule is when a student gives permission for the school counselor to share what has been discussed with a trusted adult, such as a parent/legal guardian, teacher, and/or principal.

Risks of Tele-Counseling Services

There are many benefits of tele-counseling services; however, there are potential risks with this technology as well. These might include:

1. The video connection may not work or it may stop working during the tele-counseling session.
2. Due to the nature of the service, we cannot guarantee full confidentiality due to the nature of online communication and/or lack of control over end-user security. Zoom is an encrypted service and is very secure, but again, we cannot guarantee it with 100% certainty. We encourage a quiet and private space for your child where they will not be disturbed or interrupted during their tele-counseling session.

Consent

I have read this document and understand the benefits and risks of tele-counseling services made available by the school counselor of Linton Public School. I grant consent for my child to use this service. If I have any additional questions or concerns, I will contact Mrs. Leier.

Printed Name of Student

Printed Name of Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Legal Guardian

Email of Legal Guardian

Cell Phone