

**UPLANDS COUNSELING ASSOCIATES (UCA)
PRIVACY PRACTICES for COUPLES**

In addition to the privacy practices spelled out in UCA's **Privacy Practices - Client Rights – Informed Consent** form, we want you to be aware of additional privacy practices for couples. As you know, when you receive mental health services at UCA, **health information** is created. This information may be written (e.g. a medical record), spoken (e.g. treatment providers discussing care), or electronic (e.g. scheduling and billing files). When being seen as a couple (conjoint therapy), **the couple is the identified client** (rather than just one individual noted as the identified client). Therefore:

1. Both individual's names will be identified on the medical record/chart.
2. You will be asked which member of the couple would like to receive appointment reminder calls.
3. Since it is your clinician's duty to **protect the privacy of both members** of the couple, no information will be released without **written consent of both members** of the couple by completing a **Release of Information** form (except when written consent is not required as outlined in the **Privacy Practices - Client Rights – Informed Consent form**). Essentially, both members of the couple must consent to disclosure of information shared within the couples' therapy (conjoint). If only one member of the couple signs a **Release of Information** form, UCA's practice is to redact the name and confidential information of the other member of the couple before releasing records.
4. Records of individual therapy sessions may be released based on written consent from the individual client who was the subject of the records.
5. If individual therapy is recommended for either member of the couple, it may be necessary for your couples' clinician to refer you to another clinician (for individual therapy) to avoid a possible conflict of interest.
6. It is understood that the **purpose of the couples' session(s) is to address the goal(s) outlined in the Treatment Plan**, and that the role of the clinician is to support the couple in achieving this goal(s) and not to testify in any future court proceedings (should they arise). Clients who require an evaluation for court purposes may retain the services of a clinician independent from the couples' therapy.
7. This agreement will remain in effect for the duration of treatment.

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____

Therapist's Signature: _____ Date: _____