



Social Media Policy

This document outlines my policies related to the use of Social Media. Please read it to understand how I conduct myself on the Internet as a mental health professional and how you can expect me to respond to various interactions that may occur between us on the internet.

Please understand this policy is intended to protect your privacy and is not intended to limit the confidential exchange of information between us. If you have any questions regarding anything in this document I encourage you to bring them up when we meet in session. As new technology develops and the Internet changes, there may be times when I need to update this policy. If you are a current client I will notify you of any changes.

Email

You are welcome to email me at shannontbrewerlpa@yahoo.com. However, I prefer to limit e-mails to arranging or rescheduling appointments, exchanging non-confidential information requested, etc. If you chose to communicate with me by email, be aware that e-mails are not a 100% secure method of communication. I also want you to be aware that if you chose to communicate with me by email that they will all be retained as part of your record.

Please do not email me in an emergency. There are times when I may not have access to email services. In the case of emergency, or to discuss confidential matters, you should call me directly at 704-997-9572.

Linking/Facebook

Currently, the only social media site I use is LinkedIn and Facebook. You are welcome to view my profile on LinkedIn, but I prefer not to link or follow current or former clients. Rather, I prefer to limit contacts to professional colleagues. Please do not contact me via LinkedIn InMails since these communications may not be private and I do not check them frequently. In regards to Facebook, I do not accept friend requests from current or former clients as this is my personal Facebook page and I limit my requests to close friends and family. I do not do this to slight anyone, rather it is another way I protect your confidentiality. Gateway Counseling does have a Facebook page that you are welcome to view and “like”, but there is no expectation or encouragement to do so on my part. Please be aware that choosing to “like” that page shows up for others to see.

Business Review Sites

You may find my practice on sites such as Yelp, Healthgrades, Yahoo Local, Bing, etc which list businesses. Some of these sites include forums in which users rate their providers and/or add reviews. Many of these sites comb search engines for business listing and automatically add listings regardless of whether the business asked to be listed on the site. If you should find my name/listing on any of these sites, please know my listing is NOT a request for a testimonial, rating or endorsement from you as my

client. The American Psychological Association's Ethics Code states under Principle 5.05 that it is unethical for psychologists to solicit testimonials.

You do have the right to express yourself on any site you wish, but due to confidentiality, I cannot respond to any review on any of those sites whether it positive or negative. I urge you to take your own privacy as seriously as I take my commitment to protect it. You should also be aware that if you are using these sites to communicate indirectly with me about your feelings about our sessions, there is a good possibility I may never see it. I hope that any concerns you have about our sessions will be something you will bring up when we meet. None of this is meant to keep you from sharing that you are or have sought my services wherever and with whomever you like. Confidentiality means I cannot tell people that you are my client, nor solicit testimonials.

I have read the above information and understand Shannon Brewer's Social Media Policy.

Date: _____