

# Art Therapy for Healing, LLC

Rosemary Barnes Pratt, ATR-BC, LPC

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## PRIVATE PRACTICE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This document outlines my office 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.

If you have any questions about anything within this document, please bring them up when we meet. I reserve the right to update this policy with changes to technology and the Internet. If I do so, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy.

The American Counseling Association Ethics Code states under principle H.2.d Security Counselors use current encryption standards within their websites and/or technology-based communications that meet applicable legal requirements. Counselors take reasonable precautions to ensure the confidentiality of information transmitted through any electronic means. (American Counseling Association, 2014).

### EMAIL

I prefer using email only to arrange or modify appointments. Please do not email me contact related to your therapy session, as email is not completely secure or confidential. If you choose to communicate with me by email be aware that all emails are retained in the logs of your and my internet service providers. While it is unlikely that someone will be looking at these logs, they are, in theory, available to be read by the system administrator(s) of the internet service provider. You should also know that any emails I receive from you and any responses that I send to you become part of your legal record. That being said, I have secured a HIPAA compliant email at [rosemary@arttherapyforhealing.com](mailto:rosemary@arttherapyforhealing.com). Please know that emails are not to be used for emergencies; for more urgent matters please contact me via phone at (314) 403-2384, call a local mental health crisis line (Behavioral Health Response: 314-469-6644 or 1-800-811-4760; Provident Life Crisis Services: 314-647-4357), or dial 911.

### INTERACTING/TEXT

**Please do not use SMS/Texting (mobile phone text messaging) or messaging on Social Networking sites** such as Twitter, Facebook, or LinkedIn to contact me. These sites are not secure and are not protected by HIPAA compliance. Do not use Wall postings, @replies, or other means of engaging with me in public online. Engaging with me this way could compromise your confidentiality. It may also create the possibility that these exchanges become a part of your legal medical record and will need to be documented and archived in your chart.

If you need to contact me between sessions, the best way to do so is by phone at (314) 403-2384.

### FRIENDING

I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on any social networking site (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.). I believe that adding clients as friends or contacts on these sites can compromise our confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship. If you have questions about this, please bring them up when we meet and we can talk more about it.

My primary concern is your privacy.

I will not follow you on any social network. My reasoning is that I believe casual viewing of clients' online content outside of the therapy hour can create confusion in regard to whether it's being done as a part of your treatment or to satisfy my personal curiosity. In addition, viewing your online activities without your consent and without our explicit arrangement towards a specific purpose could potentially have a negative influence on our working relationship. If there are things from your online life that you wish to share with me, please bring them into our sessions where we can view and explore them together, during the therapy hour.

### LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

If you use location-based services on your mobile phone, you may wish to be aware of the privacy issues related to using these services. I do not place my practice as a check in location on various sites such as Foursquare, Gowalla, Loopt, etc. However, if you have GPS tracking enabled on your device, it is possible that others may surmise that you are a therapy

client due to regular check-ins at my office. Please be aware of this risk if you are intentionally “checking-in” from my office or if you have a passive LBS app enabled on your phone.

### **USE OF SEARCH ENGINES**

It is NOT a regular part of my practice to search for clients on Google or Facebook or other search engines. Extremely rare exceptions may be made during times of crisis. If I have a reason to suspect that you are in danger and you have not been in touch with me via our usual means (coming to appointments, phone, or email) there might be an instance in which using a search engine (to find you, find someone close to you, or to check on your recent status updates) becomes necessary as a part of ensuring your welfare. These are unusual situations and if I ever resort to such means, I will fully document it and discuss it with you when we next meet.

### **BUSINESS REVIEW SITES**

You may find my counseling/art therapy practice on sites such as Yelp, Healthgrades, Yahoo Local, Bing, or other places which list businesses. Some of these sites include forums in which users rate their providers and add reviews. Many of these sites comb search engines for business listings and automatically add listings regardless of whether the business (Rosemary Barnes Pratt, ATR-BC, LPC, 2510 S. Brentwood Blvd., Suite 305, Brentwood, MO 63144, (314) 403-2384, [www.arttherapyforhealing.com](http://www.arttherapyforhealing.com)) has added itself to the site. If you should find my listing on any of these sites, please know that 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: “Psychologists do not solicit testimonials from current therapy clients/ patients or other persons who because of their particular circumstances are vulnerable to undue influence.”

Of course, you have a right to express yourself on any site you wish. But due to confidentiality, I cannot respond to any review on any of these sites whether it is positive or negative. I urge you to take your own privacy as seriously as I take my commitment of confidentiality to you. You should also be aware that if you are using these sites to communicate indirectly with me about your feelings about our work, there is a good possibility that I may never see it.

If we are working together, I hope that you will bring your feelings and reactions to our work directly into the therapy process. This can be an important part of therapy, even if you decide we are not a good fit. None of this is meant to keep you from sharing that you are in therapy with me whenever and with whomever you like. Confidentiality means that I cannot tell people that you are my clients and my Ethics Code prohibits me from requesting testimonials. But you are more than welcome to tell anyone you wish that I’m your therapist or how you feel about the treatment I provided to you, in any forum of your choosing.

If you do choose to write something on a business review site, I hope you will keep in mind that you maybe sharing personally revealing information in a public forum. I urge you to create a pseudonym that is not linked to your regular email address or friend networks for your own privacy and protection. If you feel I have done something harmful or unethical and you do not feel comfortable discussing it with me, you can always contact the Missouri Committee for Professional Counselors and Art therapy Credential Board, which oversees licensing and board certifications, that they will review the services I have provided.

#### **Committee for Professional counselors**

3605 Missouri Blvd.  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1335  
573-751-0018 Telephone  
573-751-0735 Fax  
800-735-2966 TTY  
800-735-2466 Voice Relay  
[profcounselor@pr.mo.gov](mailto:profcounselor@pr.mo.gov)  
<http://pr.mo.gov/counselors.asp>

#### **Art Therapy Credentials Board**

7 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660  
877-213-2822 Toll-free Telephone  
336-482-2858 Telephone  
336-482-2852 Fax  
[atcbinfo@atcb.org](mailto:atcbinfo@atcb.org)  
<http://www.atcb.org>

### **CONCLUSION**

Thank you for taking the time to review my Social Media Policy. If you have questions or concerns about any of these policies and procedures or regarding our potential interactions on the Internet, do bring them to my attention so that we can discuss them.

January 1, 2016 original