

Notice of our privacy practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

=====PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY=====

We are committed to protecting your privacy. Because we respect your privacy, we ask that you please read this important Notice. It concerns the privacy of health information when you use the services of any of the therapists at Knoxville Music Therapy LLC, also referred to herein as “Knoxville Music Therapy”. We recommend that you keep a copy of this Notice for future reference.

At Knoxville Music Therapy we are committed to protecting client confidentiality to the full extent of the law. The information below (which we are required by law to give to you) reflects federal regulations that set a minimum standard of privacy. In most instances, the policies of Knoxville Music Therapy (and laws of the state of Tennessee) are more stringent.

****If you are a parent or guardian of a minor-aged client of Knoxville Music Therapy, this notice applies to the health information of your child.****

This Notice explains our privacy practices and describes how Knoxville Music Therapy may use and disclose your health information that specifically identifies you or could be used to identify you (your "health information"). This Notice also provides you with important information about your privacy rights and how you may exercise those rights. Please note that others involved in your healthcare (for example, your health plan, physicians, etc.) may send you separate notices describing their privacy practices.

Your health information

To provide you with safe and convenient music therapy services we need to obtain and use some health information. Without your health information, we would be unable to provide our services. Examples of the health information we hold include your therapy records, your health plan information, your services payment history, and your address. This information may come from you (for example, when you tell us about your medical and/or psychosocial history), your physician, and your health plan and its agents.

The HIPAA privacy standards

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has adopted privacy standards "the HIPAA Privacy Standards" which protect your health information. The HIPAA Privacy Standards establish rules for when healthcare providers, such as Knoxville Music Therapy, may use or disclose your health information. Importantly, the HIPAA Privacy Standards also tell us what we cannot do with your health information. Activities that are not permitted under HIPAA will require your written authorization.

How Knoxville Music Therapy may use or disclose your health information

The HIPAA Privacy Standards allow us to use and disclose your health information, without your authorization, for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes.

Treatment: We are permitted to use and disclose your health information to provide you with appropriate treatment. For example, we may use or disclose your health information to:

- Review and interpret your treatment plan
- Contact your treating physician or other health care providers to resolve questions about your therapy
- Notify you of any issues or scheduling problems with your therapy

Payment: We are permitted to use and disclose your health information to receive payment for our services. For example, we may:

- Bill you for your therapy
- Contact your health plan or its agents to check your co-payment amount
- Check to see if music therapy services are covered under your plan
- Provide your health plan or its agents with the health information they need to pay us for the services we provide, and so that they may otherwise manage your health benefit

Healthcare operations: We are permitted to use and disclose your health information for the general administrative and business activities necessary for us to operate as a provider of therapeutic services. For example, we may:

- Review and evaluate the performance of our therapists
- Conduct audits and compliance programs
- Collect medical and psychosocial history information from you
- Send communications informing you of the status of your therapy
- Provide customer service
- Review and resolve grievances

Knoxville Music Therapy may also share health information with:

You: We are permitted to disclose your health information to you. For example, we may inform you of the status and progress of your therapy. In addition, we may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Family members and others involved in your care: In certain circumstances, we are permitted to disclose your health information to family members or other people involved in your care. For example:

If a family member calls Knoxville Music Therapy on your behalf, we may provide the family member with information about your therapy, but only if he or she is able to be properly identified and authenticated and only if you have provided permission to Knoxville Music Therapy in advance.

This is done for the convenience of you and your family, so that the people close to you may continue to be involved in your care. If for any reason you do not want us to disclose your health information to your family members, you have the right to request a restriction as provided below in Your Privacy Rights.

Knoxville Music Therapy service vendors: At times, we must provide your health information to outside companies so that they may help us operate more efficiently. For example, we may provide your name, address, and other health information to a company that helps us mail important health communications to you. These companies perform their duties at our direction, within strict guidelines established by the HIPAA Privacy Standards. All of these companies are required to protect your health information and use it only for authorized purposes.

Courts and government bodies: In certain circumstances, federal and state laws may require us to disclose your health information. We may also provide information to government agencies for healthcare- related investigations, audits, or inspections; to comply with workers' compensation laws; or for certain national security or intelligence activities. If you are involved in a legal matter, we may be ordered to provide your health information to a court or other party. In those cases, only the specific health information required by law, subpoena, or court order will be disclosed.

Public health and safety entities: We are also permitted to disclose your health information for certain purposes that have been determined to benefit the public as a whole. For example, we may disclose your health information to the Food and Drug Administration, to your local public health department, or to law enforcement agencies if the disclosure will prevent or control disease, or prevent a serious threat to the health and safety of an individual or the public.

The Department of Health and Human Services: We are required to disclose your health information to the Department of Health and Human Services, at its request, so it may investigate complaints and review our compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Standards.

Other ways Knoxville Music Therapy may use and disclose your health information:

To create "de-identified health information": We may create data that cannot be linked to you by removing certain elements from your health information, such as your name, address, telephone number, and patient identification (record) number. Knoxville Music Therapy may use this de-identified information to conduct certain business activities; for example, to create summary reports and to analyze and monitor the services we provide.

For research purposes: We are permitted to use and disclose your health information for research purposes, but only if we receive prior approval from a special review board. Before we receive approval, the review board must consider a number of factors and determine whether there are appropriate safeguards in place to protect the privacy of your health information.

Child Abuse: If your therapist, in the ordinary course of professional practice, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of eighteen years (1) has been abused or neglected, (2) has had non-accidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, inflicted upon such child, or (3) is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, then your therapist must report this suspicion or belief to the appropriate authority.

Adult and Domestic Abuse: If your therapist knows or in good faith suspects that an elderly individual or an individual who is disabled or incompetent has been abused, the appropriate information as permitted by law may be disclosed.

Health Oversight Activities: If the Professional Board of Examiners is investigating your therapist, the board may subpoena records relevant to such investigation.

Judicial and Administrative Proceedings: If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information about your diagnosis and treatment and the records thereof, such information is privileged under state law, and will not be released without the written authorization of you or your legally appointed representative or a court order. The privilege does not apply when you are being evaluated for a third party or where the evaluation is court ordered. You will be informed in advance if this is the case.

Serious Threat to Health or Safety: If your therapist believes in good faith that there is risk of imminent personal injury to you or to other individuals or risk of imminent injury to the property of other individuals, the appropriate information, as permitted by law, may be disclosed.

Worker's Compensation: TSI/CAAP may disclose protected health information regarding you as authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to worker's compensation or other similar programs, established by law, that provide benefits for work related injuries or illness without regard to fault.

For other purposes: We must obtain your written authorization if we want to use or disclose your health information for activities other than those listed above (for example, when Tennessee laws are more stringent). If we need your authorization for certain activities, we will contact you. You may revoke your authorization at any time in writing.

Your privacy rights

Knoxville Music Therapy is committed to complying with the HIPAA Privacy Standards while providing you with all the information you need to make informed decisions about your healthcare and therapy. The following describes your privacy rights under the HIPAA Privacy Standards:

The right to request your Knoxville Music Therapy "designated record set":

You may request a copy of your health information (documents, records, etc.) maintained by Knoxville Music Therapy, referred to herein as your *Knoxville Music Therapy designated record set*. The Knoxville Music Therapy designated record set will contain health information specific to your therapy. Knoxville Music Therapy may charge a \$25 fee, or \$.25 per page, for printing costs of your designated record set.

The right to request amendments to your Knoxville Music Therapy designated record set:

You may request changes to the information contained in your Knoxville Music Therapy designated record set. However, we are not required to honor your request if, for example, the information you want to amend is accurate and complete. When requesting an amendment in writing, you must provide a reason to support your request.

The right to request an "accounting of disclosures":

You may request a list or accounting of the non-routine disclosures of your health information that we have made. Examples may include disclosures to a court or government agency, to a public health and safety entity, for research, or to the Department of Health and Human Services. You may receive one accounting per year free of charge. For additional requests within a one-year period, we may impose a reasonable fee.

The right to request a copy of this Notice:

You may request a copy of this Notice at any time. In addition to requesting a copy of this Notice in writing, you may find this Notice on this website, www.knoxvillemusictherapy.com.

The right to request restrictions:

You may request restrictions on how we use and disclose your health information, and whether we disclose your health information to family members or others involved in your care. Although Knoxville Music Therapy is not required to agree to your restriction requests, we will try to honor your request to block health information from your family members. If Knoxville Music Therapy agrees to your restriction request, it is important to understand that your family members will no longer be able to act on your behalf or continue to be involved in your care, which may make our services less convenient for you and your family.

The right to request "confidential communications" of your health information:

You may request that we send your health information to an address that is different than your family address (for example, your work address). Communications containing your health information will be sent to you at the address indicated. However, please note that certain billing information related to your therapy may continue to be mailed to the person with financial responsibility if that is someone other than you. If you request this confidential handling of your health information, it is important to understand that your family members will no longer be able to act on your behalf or continue to be involved in your care, which may make our services less convenient for you and your family.

To exercise any of your privacy rights, please put your request in writing and mail it to: **Knoxville Music Therapy LLC, 2902 Tazewell Pike, Suite I, Knoxville, TN 37918**. To ensure the accuracy of your report, the request must include the following information: your name, full address, client's name (if you are a parent / guardian of a client), and a brief and concise description of the information you are requesting.

Additional rights

Some states may provide additional privacy protections under existing or future state laws. We are committed to complying with applicable laws when we use or disclose your health information.

Knoxville Music Therapy's responsibilities

We are required by the HIPAA Privacy Standards to maintain the privacy and security of your health information. We must obey all of the applicable conditions of the HIPAA Privacy Standards and only use and disclose your health information as allowed by law. We are required to provide you with this Notice and to abide by the privacy practices outlined in this Notice. Knoxville Music Therapy reserves the right to change a privacy practice

described in this Notice and to make the new privacy practice effective for all health information that we maintain. If we need to make a material change to this Notice, you will receive a new Notice by mail, e-mail, or other means permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Standards.

Privacy complaints

If you have any concerns about our privacy practices, or if you feel your privacy rights have been compromised, you have the right to file a complaint with Knoxville Music Therapy LLC, 2902 Tazewell Pike, Suite I, Knoxville, TN 37918, or with the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Please be assured that if you file a privacy complaint, your complaint will be handled in a professional manner, and you will not be subject to any type of penalty for filing the complaint.

Further questions?

At Knoxville Music Therapy, we want to make it easy for you to make informed healthcare decisions. If you have any questions about this Notice or our privacy practices as they relate to your music therapy services, you may call 865-951-6477, or email info@knoxvillemusictherapy.com

This Notice is effective April 02, 2007.

(4/02/2007) Knoxville Music Therapy
(Updated 3/2016, 6/2018, 7/2023) KMT

Client/Patient FAQs about the HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices¹

1) What does HIPAA stand for?

HIPAA is an acronym for Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act which was passed by Congress in 1996 and effective as of April 14, 2003.

2) Why should I sign now?

Signing now simply lets us know you received the HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices. Of course you can choose not to sign.

3) What happens if I don't sign this acknowledgement form?

First, you need to know we will provide you timely care and treatment whether or not you sign the form. Second, if you choose not to sign the form, we will note your choice on the bottom of the acknowledgement form and hope you take a copy of the Notice.

4) Is my signature just acknowledging receipt of this notice?

Yes. By signing this acknowledgement form we then can show the Department of Health & Human Services that we are complying with one of the major rules of HIPAA to make sure we give every patient the opportunity to have our Notice.

5) Why is this notice so long compared to the ones I received from my financial institution or my credit card company (ies) or my life insurance company?

Those companies are subject to a different set of privacy rules under the Graham/Leach Act while all healthcare organizations are subject to HIPAA.

6) Are you doing anything differently with my health information now than you did before HIPAA?

Actually, we are going to guard your medical information even more closely. We have developed policies and procedures for our staff and student observers to follow to make certain your medical information is shared only with those needing your information for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations.

7) Is this HIPAA Notice and acknowledgement form only for Knoxville Music Therapy?

Yes; however, all healthcare organizations such as hospitals, physician offices, urgent-care centers, outpatient surgery centers, and home care or hospice care services are subject to HIPAA. These other organizations will have their own Notice and acknowledgement form you may sign when you receive services from them.

8) After I sign this acknowledgement form, then what happens?

We will place your form in your record.

9) What am I going to be paying out because of signing?

Signing our HIPAA Privacy Notice acknowledgement form has **NO** bearing on your current payment arrangements.

10) Am I expected to sign this acknowledgement form without reading the Privacy Notice?

Yes. You are simply going on record that you have the Privacy Notice which we are required by law, which is the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act, to provide. Your signature does not indicate that you have read the Notice and agree with everything that is in it.

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