

River Valley

Psychological Services

TO NEW PATIENTS OF DR CONNOLLY

It is a pleasure to welcome you as a new patient. The following information is provided to answer your most frequently asked questions and to provide you with further information about the practice of psychotherapy.

Our front office is open Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm except noon to 1:00pm. Outside of these times, you may leave a message on our voice mail. Appointments should be scheduled through the front office. If there is a need to cancel your appointment, please give 24 hours' notice. Appointments missed or cancelled without this advanced notice will be charged a full fee unless the hour is filled from my waiting list. Insurance companies will not pay for missed or cancelled appointments and you will be responsible for these charges.

Regarding fees, my charges are comparable to those of other psychologists in the area. Each session lasts approximately 50 minutes and starts at 15 minutes past the hour. My fee for the initial office consultation and patient registration is \$170 and the fee for each visit thereafter is \$140. Payments of copays are expected at the time of service. You will receive a statement from our billing department once per month. Any overdue accounts will be sent to a collection agency.

Regarding my background and training, I am a licensed clinical psychologist. I received my Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology from St. John's University in New York City with a pre-doctoral internship at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, CT. This was a two year internship in various areas of general psychology. My theoretical orientation is eclectic or integrative, but is generally an interpersonal approach based on cognitive and dynamic considerations of psychological problems. Typically the first one to three sessions will be utilized to evaluate and discuss the problem and to outline the form that treatment may take and provide you with an opportunity to see how the working relationship between us will be managed.

In addition to face-to-face contact, I may utilize psychological tests to facilitate my understanding of our concerns. At the conclusion of the evaluation phase, I will discuss my treatment recommendations, including estimated length of treatment, with you. You may at any time refuse treatment, request a change in the treatment approach or request a referral to another therapist. I would appreciate however, some discussion of these options so that we may work out any possible problems that may arise in our therapeutic relationship.

All issues discussed in evaluation or treatments are confidential. By law, information regarding evaluation and treatment may be released only with the written consent of the patient or that patient's parent or guardian. However, the law requires the release of confidential information in certain instances such as suspected child abuse, potential suicidal behavior and threatening harm to another person. The attached brochure entitled *Considering Seeking Help from a Psychologist* provides additional information on the practice of psychology.

I look forward to working with you and trust you will feel free to ask any questions not covered in this statement. Please keep this letter for your information.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be of service.

- Dr. Connolly