

**Informed Consent Talking Points for use of Gruveo**

* Confidentiality & Mandated Reporting Requirements
  + “First, I want to explain the confidentiality that you have with me and also the limits to that confidentiality. Everything that you say to me is confidential. But, if you tell me about the abuse or neglect of a child or a person who is not legally their own guardian, I am mandated to report suspected abuse and neglect of children and certain vulnerable adults. It’s important for you to know these limits so that you can decide what you want to share with me.”
* Benefits and Risks
  + “The use of Gruveo will hopefully make it easier for you and me to connect during this pandemic. There are a few risks I need to let you know about. There might be some technical difficulties where our connection gets disrupted, or we can’t connect at all. Sometimes the image resolution might be poor, and our faces could look pixelated. We can chat about how you will want to continue if something like this happens. Even though Gruveo, the platform we will use for our sessions, stores your information in a confidential and secure way, there is always very small chance that in the event of a privacy breach, your personal information could be exposed. We would inform you right away if this were to happen.” I do have a handout with tips about keeping your communication with us safer, if you’d like that let me know and I can email it to you. <http://mecasainterventiontoolkit.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/3/6/44365787/privacy_guide.pdf>
* Shared responsibility for confidentiality
  + “There are a few things we both need to do to ensure your confidentiality. It’s important that you have a private and comfortable space to us to talk. It’s up to you where that place is and we can talk more about that if you’d like. Wherever you choose, I ask there to be sufficient lighting so I can see your face on the camera. It’s also really important that there is no one else in the room with you when we talk. The presence of another person will invalidate the privilege I hold as a sexual assault advocate; that means that anything you tell me could be “discoverable” in court if you ever choose to pursue a legal remedy. Discoverable means that I could have to repeat what you tell me in court; if I have privilege, everything you say to me is confidential. I will also ensure that no one is in the room with me and that I am meeting you in a private, sound-proofed space. If someone enters the room unexpectedly, I will end the call and call you back or turn the volume on my phone/computer to its lowest point. We can resume again once they leave. If you are worried about a family or household member sitting in the room off camera, even though you don’t want them to be there, we can come up with a phrase that discreetly lets me know they are there, and I will make up an excuse to end the session early. I also want to ask you not to record the session either by videotaping it or recording the audio.”
* Technical difficulties
  + “If there are some technical difficulties, we should discuss a backup plan. If both the audio and video connection isn’t working, I can call you on your phone and we can finish out the session on the phone. Or, if you’d prefer, we can try and reschedule the session. If you have another idea you are more comfortable with, we can discuss that.”
* Other options
  + “If you find after trying Gruveo that it’s not a good fit, we can discuss the other options that are available to you.”

When you’re ready, by signing the consent form, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the information outlined in it. You are acknowledging that we have discussed it and that your questions have been answered. You are consenting to using Gruveo services and are agreeing to follow the steps listed above.