

## CONFIDENTIALITY

The psychologists at Interconnections Counseling & Consulting adhere to strict standards of confidentiality of client records and contacts as outlined by the American Psychological Association and the Rules and Regulations of the State of Washington. Information provided to us by clients is strictly confidential except in cases where there is an imminent life threatening situation, situations of suspected abuse/neglect of children or elders, or when release of records is required by law. Please visit the websites that outline the APA Principles and Code of Conduct (<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code2002.html>) and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' Mental Health Laws and Rules (<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/Mentalhealth/regulations.shtml>) for more information regarding confidentiality and the limits of therapist/client confidentiality. In addition, our services are compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996.

### Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

In 2003, the U.S. Congress passed federal privacy standards intended to protect the privacy of patients' medical records and other health information supplied to health care providers and insurance companies. Known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), these newly developed standards provide patients with greater control over the ways in which their health information is disclosed and/or shared to health care providers or insurance companies. For more information regarding HIPAA, visit the United States Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/facts/privacy.html>

**Limitations on confidentiality will be discussed during your first counseling session.**