

Group Agreements

UM-Student Counseling Center (SCC)

Privacy and Confidentiality: As a member of the group, you have the right to privacy and confidentiality. Confidentiality within the group setting is a shared responsibility of all members and facilitators. While group facilitators may not disclose any client communications or information except as provided by law, group members' communications are not protected. As such, confidentiality within the group setting is based on mutual trust and respect.

SCC adheres to professional, legal, and ethical guidelines of confidentiality established by professional organizations and state law. Legal and ethical exceptions to confidentiality include: (1) danger and/or risk of imminent harm to yourself or specifically identified others; (2) child abuse (past or ongoing) or vulnerable adult abuse; and (3) responses to court order or subpoena or as otherwise required by law.

I agree to not disclose to anyone outside the group any information that may help to identify another group member. This includes, but is not limited to, names, physical descriptions, biographical information, and specifics to the content of interactions with other group members.

As a member of this group,

- I agree to attend group each week, stay the entire session, and be punctual. Group will start and end on time.
- I agree to notify group facilitator(s) if I am going to miss a session. If I am unable to attend group, I will contact facilitator(s) at least two hours prior to the start of group. This way, facilitators will be able to notify other members ahead of time if the group will not be held that day.
- If I miss 2 consecutive group sessions without notifying the leaders, I understand that my seat in the group may be forfeited, and I will need to contact one of the leaders before returning.
- I agree to attend a minimum of 2 consecutive sessions.
- I agree to behave respectfully toward all group members. I understand that to maintain the integrity and safety of the group for all of its members, it is imperative that I demonstrate respect for individual differences amongst group members.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to discuss my therapeutic goals and reason(s) for attending. Also, I understand that no one is going to force me to talk or reveal difficult material before I am ready to do so.
- If I am receiving individual counseling at SCC, I understand that my confidentiality will be maintained and it is my choice whether to reveal this information to the group.
- I understand that any form of physical contact is not permitted within the group setting.

- I agree that as long as I am a group member, I will not subgroup with other members outside of group time. I also agree that if I have contact with another group member outside of group, I will let the group know about this
- I understand that if my therapeutic needs are greater than group can provide, the facilitator(s) will meet with me outside of group and make referrals to appropriate services.
- I understand that in order to ensure the effectiveness of group, group facilitators may discuss group material outside of group.
- I agree that all pagers and cell phones will be turned off during group time.
- I agree to participate in group sober and not under the influence of controlled substances.
- I agree to stay in group until I have met my therapeutic goals. I agree that when I decide that I have gained as much as possible from group, I will notify the group in advance of my intentions to leave the group and come to the group to say good-bye.

By my signature below, I indicate that I have carefully read and understand the Group Agreements and that I agree to its terms and conditions. I have asked and had answered any questions I have concerning these Group Agreements and am aware that signing the Agreement is required for my admission to the group. I am also aware that my refusal to sign this Agreement will exclude me from participating in group.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____