



STEVEN F. WU, Ph.D.
Applied Psychological Solutions LLC
Licensed Psychologist FL PY4543

310 Hughes St.
Brandon, FL 33510
Voice/Fax: 813-655-7057

PO Box 2755
Brandon, FL 33509-2755

MY PRIVATE PRACTICE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This document outlines my office policies related to use of Social Media. Please read it to understand how I conduct myself on the Internet as a psychologist and how you can expect me to respond to various interactions that may occur between us on the Internet.

If you have any questions about anything within this document, I encourage you to bring them up when we meet. As new technology develops and the Internet changes, there may be times when I need to update this policy. If I do so, I will notify you in writing of any policy changes and make sure you have a copy of the updated policy.

Friending or Fanning

I do not have a Facebook page, Twitter or Instagram account. I do not accept friend or contact requests from current or former clients on LinkedIn. I believe that adding clients as friends or contacts on such sites can compromise your confidentiality and our respective privacy. It may also blur the boundaries of our therapeutic relationship. If you have any questions about this, please bring them up when we meet and we can talk more about it.

Texting or Messaging

Please do not use SMS (mobile phone text messaging) or messaging on social networking sites to contact me. These sites are not secure and I may not read these messages in a timely fashion. Engaging with me this way could compromise your confidentiality since such messages can be saved on Servers and read by ISP employees, hackers, and Federal officials conducting counterterrorism searches under the Patriot Act.

Emailing

Please use e-mail only to arrange or modify appointments and do not include any private or personal information about yourself or our sessions since this could compromise your confidentiality. E-mail servers are not completely secure and e-mails can be read by ISP employees, hackers, and Federal officials conducting counterterrorism searches under the Patriot Act. If you choose to communicate with me by e-mail, be aware that all e-mails are retained in the logs of your and my Internet Service Providers. You should also know that any e-mails I receive from you and any response I sent you become a part of your legal record.

Business Review Sites

You may find my psychology practice on websites such as Google, Yelp, Healthgrades, Yahoo, Bing, or other places which list businesses. Some of these sites include forums in which users rate their providers and add reviews. Many of these sites comb search engines for business listings and automatically add listings regardless of whether the business has added itself to the

site. If you should find my listing on any of these sites, please know that my listing is NOT a request for a testimonial, rating, or endorsement from you as my client. The American Psychological Association's ethics code states under Principal 5.05 that it is unethical for psychologist to solicit testimonials: "Psychologists do not solicit testimonials from current therapy clients/patients or other persons who because of their particular circumstances are vulnerable to undue influence."

You have a right to express yourself on any site you wish. But due to confidentiality, I cannot respond to any review on any of these sites whether it is positive or negative. I urge you to take your own privacy as seriously as I take my commitment of confidentiality to you. You should also be aware that if you are using these sites to communicate indirectly with me about your feelings about our work, there's a good possibility that I may never see it. If you have complaints or a negative review of me, you should bring your feelings and reactions to our work directly into the therapy process. This can be an important part of therapy, even if you decide we are not a good fit. None of this is meant to keep you from sharing that you're in therapy with me wherever and with whomever you like. Confidentiality means that I cannot tell people that you are my client, you can choose to violate your own confidentiality if you want. You are more than welcome to tell anyone you wish that I am your therapist or how you feel about the treatment I provided to you, in any form of your choosing. If you do choose to write something on a business review site, I hope you will keep in mind that you may be sharing personally revealing information in a public forum. If you do so, I urge you to create a pseudonym that is not linked to your regular e-mail address or friend networks for your own privacy and protection. If you feel I've done something harmful or unethical and you do not feel comfortable discussing it with me, you can always contact the Florida Board of Psychology, which oversees licensing, and they will review the services I have provided.

Location-Based Services

If you use location-based services on your mobile phone, you may wish to be aware of the privacy issues related to using the services. I do not place my practice as a check-in location on various sites such as Foursquare, Gowalla, Loopt, etc. However, if you have GPS tracking enabled on your device, it is possible that others may surmise that you are a therapy client due to regular check-ins at my office on a weekly basis. Please be aware of this risk if you are intentionally "checking in" from my office or if you have a passive LBS app enabled on your phone.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to review my Social Media Policy. If you have questions or concerns about any of these policies and procedures or regarding our potential interactions on the Internet, do bring them to my attention so that we can discuss them.