

## Tina Gilbertson, LPC

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## **Informed Consent for Consultation by Telephone or Online Video**

I offer short-term (e.g., 1-5 appointments) consultation to clients who are familiar with my books, articles, or other work and wish to speak with me about aspects of their personal situations. **These consultations are not psychotherapy, and do not replace in-person psychotherapy**. They are an educative activity, the goal of which is to help parents navigate the normative difficulties associated with estrangement from adult children.

In my initial consultation session, I conduct an informal mental health assessment, with the purpose of identifying urgent psychiatric needs and referring the caller to appropriate local resources if necessary. Throughout the consultation, I use my professional judgment to determine whether the caller could benefit from ongoing in-person therapy with a local professional, and I make recommendations as I deem appropriate.

The intended benefit of consultation is to help you gain greater understanding and emotional clarity, which can result in more effective communication and better relationships. The risks are that you will not obtain the benefits you anticipated, or that our discussions will lead you to painful emotions. While painful emotion often accompanies psychological growth, it is best addressed in an in-person psychotherapy relationship. If I observe that our sessions result in painful emotions for you, I will likely recommend that you seek in-person psychotherapy.

My fee for each hour of consultation is \$250, due at the time of service. You may pay online by credit card through PayPal or my regular payment processor, which is called Stripe. If necessary, I can handle a credit card payment over the phone at the time of your appointment.

Sessions are conducted by either telephone or Zoom, and neither party will use a recording device. I will make all reasonable efforts to safeguard the confidentiality of any notes I take, and any correspondence we exchange.

Email is not a secure form of communication; I recommend against emailing any information other than that regarding scheduling or billing. If you wish to send a brief background (i.e., 1-2 pages) of your situation before our first meeting, you can upload it securely to my client portal, at hushforms.com/tinagilbertson. Please allow at least 24 hours before your appointment.

If you prefer to use email for this despite the lack of security, you're welcome to do so.

The content of our discussions is confidential, but there are certain exceptions to this guarantee:

- I'm required by law to report any suspicion of child abuse, elder abuse, or abuse of a vulnerable adult, such as someone with a disability;
- I'm required by law to take immediate action to protect you, another person, or a venue if I learn of a threat of physical harm. This includes reporting the threat to the intended victim(s) and to police;

• If ordered by a court to do so, I may need to release confidential information regarding our consultation(s).

I'm not available for clinical emergencies. These must be handled in all cases by the caller's local therapist or by local emergency services.

If you agree to these terms, please sign below, fill in the requested information, and return this form to me at the above address.

This form is also available to sign and submit electronically. Please email me to request this option.

Client Signature	DATE
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Emergency contact information (name, relationship, numbers):	