



**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**  
(Updated 11/03/2022)

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

This Notice is provided on behalf of Even Still.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how Even Still may use and disclose your Protected Health Information (“PHI”) to carry out treatment, payment, or healthcare operations and for other purposes permitted or required by law. This Notice will also describe your rights and certain obligations we have prior to using or disclosing your PHI. “Protected Health Information” or “PHI” is information about you or your minor child, including demographic data such as name, address, phone numbers, etc., that may identify you or your minor child and that relates to your or your minor child’s past, present, or future physical or mental health and related healthcare services.

We understand that PHI about you is personal and confidential, and we are committed to protecting its confidentiality. We create a record of the care and services you receive at Even Still to enable us to provide such services and to comply with legal requirements. We are required by law to provide this Notice and to maintain the privacy of PHI. We must abide by the most current version of this Notice, and we reserve the right to change the privacy practices described in it, with such changes to be effective for all PHI that we maintain. You may receive this Notice, including any updates, upon request.

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES THE PRACTICES OF:** Even Still’s healthcare professionals, employees, students-in-training, and others who work or provide healthcare services at our practice.

**Your Privacy Rights:** You have the following rights relating to your Protected Health Information and may:

- Request a paper copy of this Notice.
- Inspect and/or obtain a copy of PHI in records used to make decisions about you. You have a right to a copy of such records in their original electronic version, or if this is not possible, in another electronic form that is mutually agreeable to you and us. We may charge you related fees. Under certain circumstances, we may deny this request.
- Request that an amendment be added to your record. We will ask you to put these requests in writing and provide a reason that supports your request. We are allowed to deny these requests in certain circumstances.
- Request, in writing, a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your PHI. We are not required to abide by the requested restrictions in most circumstances; however, we must agree to your request to restrict disclosure of PHI about you to your health plan for payment purposes when the PHI pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you, or someone on your behalf, have paid in full out-of-pocket.
- Obtain a record (“accounting”) of certain disclosures of PHI about you.
- Make a reasonable request to have confidential communications of PHI about you sent to you by alternative means or at alternative locations.
- Revoke your authorization for use or disclosure of PHI about you, except that such revocation will not affect uses or disclosures permitted or required by law without authorization or any use or disclosure that already has occurred prior to the revocation. A revocation of authorization must be in writing and signed by you.

- Receive notice of any breach of your unsecured PHI.

You may exercise any of the above rights by contacting Dr. Effua Sosoo at 252-745-1929 or drsosoo@evenstillservices.com.

**Our Responsibilities:** We are required by law to protect the privacy of your PHI; abide by the terms of this Notice; make this Notice available to you; and notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction or an alternative means of communicating. We will obtain your general consent for some uses and disclosures of PHI about you, for other uses and disclosures of PHI about you we will obtain your authorization, and, in some circumstances, we may use and/or disclose PHI about you without your authorization.

**Uses & Disclosures:** Unless otherwise stated below, the use or disclosure described is permitted by law to be made without your authorization.

**Treatment:** We need to use and disclose PHI about you to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and related services. This may include communicating with other health care providers regarding your treatment and coordinating and managing your health care with others. For example, we need to use and disclose PHI about you, both inside and outside Even Still, to coordinate services you may need and when referring you to another health care provider.

**Payment:** Generally, we need to use and disclose PHI about you to others to bill and collect payment for the treatment and services provided to you by us or by another provider. Before you receive scheduled services, we may need to share information about these services with your health plan(s). Sharing information allows us to ask for coverage under your plan or policy and for approval of payment before we provide the services.

**Regular Healthcare Operations:** We may use PHI about you to review the care you received, how you responded to it, and for other business purposes related to Even Still. "Healthcare operations" also may include activities such as training or evaluating staff or trainees within our organization.

**Business Associates:** There are some services we provide through outside individuals or companies that we call "Business Associates", including vendors, contracted health care providers, offsite storage facilities, and liability insurance carriers. In order to protect PHI about you, "Business Associates" are required by law to provide appropriate safeguards and procedures for privacy and security of the PHI entrusted to them under their contract with us.

**Communication with Involved Individuals:** We may share PHI with a family member, a close friend, or a person that you identify, if we determine they are involved in your care or in payment for your care, unless you tell us not to do so.

**Consultation:** Your provider may occasionally find it helpful to consult other health and mental health professionals about a case. During a consultation, your provider will make every effort to avoid revealing your identity. The other professionals are also legally bound to keep the information confidential. If you do not object, your provider will not tell you about these consultations unless they feel that it is important to your work together. Your provider will note all consultations in your Clinical Record.

**Research:** We may disclose information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.

**Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral Directors:** The law allows us to disclose PHI to these people so that they may carry out their duties.

**Organ Donor Organizations:** We are required to share PHI about you for purposes of tissue, eye, or organ donation.

**Contacts:** We may contact you to provide appointment reminders, to discuss treatment alternatives or other health related benefits that may be of interest to you as a client.

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** We may share PHI about you with certain government agencies like the FDA so they can recall drugs or equipment.

**Workers Compensation and Your Employer:** In certain circumstances, we may disclose PHI about you to your employer and your employer's workers' compensation carrier regarding a work-related injury or illness.

**Public Health Activities:** We may disclose PHI about you to public health agencies that are charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability or as required by law. We may disclose PHI about you if you have been exposed to a communicable disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease or condition. Disclosures include for example, lifetime reporting to the North Carolina Cancer Registry information about cancer patients that are treated by facilities and is required by law.

**Correctional Institution:** We may disclose PHI about you to a correctional institution having lawful custody of you.

**Law Enforcement:** We may disclose PHI about you to comply with laws that require the reporting of certain types of wounds or other physical injuries.

**As Required by Law:** We must disclose PHI about you when required by federal, state, or local law.

**Health Oversight:** We may disclose PHI about you to a state or federal health oversight agency, for activities it is authorized by law to carry out, such as investigations and inspections.

**Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence:** We must disclose PHI about you to government authorities that are authorized by law to receive reports of suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. If your provider has cause to suspect that a child under 18 is abused or neglected, or if your provider has reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult needs protective services, the law requires that your provider files a report with the County Director of Social Services (Child Protective Services). Once such a report is filed, your provider may be required to provide additional information. If your provider believes that a client presents an imminent danger to the health and safety of another, your provider may be required to disclose information to take protective actions, including initiating hospitalization, warning the potential victim, if identifiable, and/or calling the police. If such a situation arises, your provider will make every effort to fully discuss it with you before taking any action and your provider will limit their disclosure to what is necessary.

**Legal Proceedings:** We may disclose PHI about you during any judicial or administrative proceeding and in response to a court order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process. If you are involved in or contemplating litigation, you should consult with your attorney to determine whether a court would be likely to order your provider to disclose information.

**Required Uses and Disclosures:** We must make disclosures of PHI when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Regulations.

**To Avoid Harm:** We may use and/or disclose PHI about you when necessary to prevent or lessen a serious threat to your health or safety, or to the health or safety of the public or another person.

**For Specific Government Functions:** In certain situations, we may disclose PHI of military personnel and veterans for national security activities or other purposes, as required by law.

**Marketing:** We will not, without your advance authorization, use and/or disclose PHI about you to engage in a marketing activity for which we receive financial compensation, nor will we sell your PHI.

**Application of Other Laws:** If a use and/or disclosure of PHI about you described above is prohibited or materially limited by other laws that apply to us, it is our intent to meet the requirements of the more stringent law. For example, some North Carolina laws provide more protection, with some exceptions, for specific types of information, including specific communicable diseases (e.g., HIV/AIDS, syphilis, TB), mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse.

**Special Provisions for Minors:** Certain minors may be treated as adults for all purposes. These minors have all rights and authority included in this Notice for all services.

While this written summary of exceptions to confidentiality should prove helpful in informing you about potential problems, it is important that we discuss any questions or concerns that you may have now or in the future. The laws governing confidentiality can be quite complex, and your provider is not an attorney. In situations where specific advice is required, formal legal advice may be needed.

#### **OTHER USES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

Under any circumstances other than those listed above, we will obtain your written authorization before we use or disclose PHI about you. If you sign a written authorization allowing us to use or disclose PHI about you in a specific situation, you can later revoke your authorization by contacting Dr. Sosoo. You must revoke your authorization in writing. The revocation will not apply to PHI about you that has already been used or disclosed in reliance on your authorization. Upon receiving your written revocation, we will not use or disclose PHI about you, except for disclosures already in process.

If you think we have violated your privacy rights, you want to complain to us about our privacy practices, or you have any questions regarding the privacy of PHI about you, you can contact the person listed below:

Dr. Effua Sosoo at 252-745-1929 or drsosoo@evenstillservices.com

You may also send a written complaint to the United States Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Contact information can be found at the website for the Office of Civil Rights at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr>. If you file a complaint, we will not take any action against you or change our treatment of you in any way.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE, RESTRICTIONS AND CHANGES TO PRIVACY POLICY**

This notice will go into effect on **November 03, 2022**. Even Still reserves the right to change the terms of this notice and to make the new notice provisions effective for all PHI maintained. Even Still will provide you with a revised notice in your Client Portal (or by mail if requested).

#### **Acknowledgement of Receipt of Privacy Notice**

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), you have certain rights regarding the use and disclosure of your protected health information. By checking the box below, you are acknowledging that you have received a copy of HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices.