Personal History & Intentions

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prior to the session please share a bit about yourself, guided by the following outline. The purpose of writing this is to get your internal process started, to help you clarify your intentions, and to provide me with some useful background.

In responding to these questions, start by giving brief answers, then notice which area most strongly engages your attention and expand your answers in that area. Plan on writing a total of between five and ten pages. Please type your responses and send to me via email at least 3 days before your appointment or bring them to your appointment before the all-day session to discuss.

1. Birth – Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Where and when were you born? Based on what you later learned, was your birth difficult in any way? Did you have any health problems as a newborn?
* What sisters and brothers did you have at the time of birth, and what siblings came later?
* Was your mother or father facing any unusual challenges around the time you were born (in terms of career, health, their relationship, or other areas)?

2. Childhood

* Tell about any pattern of behaviors, severe illnesses, accidents, traumas, or other childhood difficulties. What went wrong? In what circumstances were you shamed or punished?

3. Family

* During the time you were growing up, what relationship did you have with your mother? Describe her physical, mental, and emotional characteristics as a mother, wife, and person. Include one or more anecdotes that illustrate how she affected your life. What is her age now (or, if no longer living, at time of death)?
* Do the same for your father.
* Any other older relatives or others who lived with you or were frequently present and helped with your care, and brothers and sisters.
* What was your role in the family (for example, mommy's favorite, odd one out, little sister or brother, trouble-maker, example to others)?

4. Education

* Describe briefly your schooling, including higher education. What were your typical relations with classmates and with teachers? In what ways did you take part in extracurricular activities? What was the attitude of your parents toward your education? To what extent did you feel like a success in school?
* Apart from formal education, in what ways did you learn the most? What other places, people, and activities taught you most about life and the world?

5. Religion/Spiritual Life

* Was your family associated with one or more religions while you were growing up? If so, which ones? To what extent were they active? What effect did religion have on your development?
* Describe your religious beliefs, including concepts of God, death, heaven and hell, ethics, and observances.
* Have you had any mystical experiences? If so, even if they were impossible to describe, what could you say at least to point someone else in the direction of what you experienced?

6. Career

* Describe the main jobs that you have held. What are your ambitions in your profession, business, or line of work? What have been your major frustrations? Your major satisfactions and successes?

7. Military history

* If you have served or are serving in the military, what were your reasons for entering? At what age did you serve? As in the questions about career, what were your major satisfactions and frustrations?

8. Legal history

* Have you ever been charged with a crime? If so, how was the case resolved? What are your attitudes toward the police and the court system? Have you been involved in a contested divorce? In any other kind of lawsuit, including any arising out of an accident, a business dispute, or malpractice? Describe the circumstances.

9. Habits

* With regard to the following substances, describe your pattern of use (if any), any problems associated with these patterns, the effect on you, including any unusual experiences:
  + Tobacco, alcohol
  + coffee
  + pharmaceuticals, both prescription and non-prescription
  + drugs such as amphetamines, cocaine and "crack," and heroin
  + other psychoactive drugs, including those called "hallucinogens" and "psychedelics"

10. Sex and marriage

* In what ways did you observe or become involved in sexual behavior as a child, including any abuse.
* From whom, and in what ways, did you learn about sex? What attitudes did you learn?
* If you are married or living together, describe your courtship, the relative age of your partner, and (in the case of marriage) the reasons for and circumstances of your wedding, including any opposition to it and conflict surrounding it.
* Describe your "significant others," including spouse and lovers, and your relationship with each of them, past and present. What are the major areas of compatibility and challenge?
* Describe attitudes toward having children. If you have any, describe their ages, character, and your feelings about them.

11. Health

* Discuss any chronic or hereditary illnesses in your family.
* Describe your major illnesses and their effects on you.
* Sketch your major fears and phobias, including any knowledge you have about their sources.
* List any current medication and the reason you are taking it, whether for physical illness or psychiatric condition (including depression)

12. Self-image

* How do you see yourself as a person? To what extent do you like yourself?
* What do you not like about yourself?
* Describe your main strengths and inadequacies.
* What are you guilty about? What are you ashamed of?
* What is your ideal of the person you are striving to become?
* What qualities do you especially admire in others?
* If you were listing three difficult feelings that most often arise in you, what would they be?
* What are some of your virtues?
* What roles do you typically play in relations with other people?

13. Attitudes of others

* What expectations have your parents, siblings, teachers, bosses, co-workers, and friends had of you?
* To what extent have you felt accepted and approved of by these people?
* What has been your biggest difficulty in relating to others?
* What do other people like best about you?

14. Special interests

* Apart from what you have already written about your education and your career, what interests do you have, even if you have not developed them as fully as you would like?

15. Goals and ambitions

* What would you like to accomplish, in your own personal development, your family life, your career, your involvement in the community, or in some other area?

16. Other experiences

* In addition to your answers so far, describe any other outstanding experiences, desires, interests, habits, beliefs, relationships, and feelings that have played a major role in your development.

17. Motivation

* State your reasons for wanting to do the session. What do you hope to accomplish? What fears have arisen? What questions do you have? What kind of experience are you hoping for?

Follow-up

* Three to five days after the session, please schedule a follow up/integration session to discuss how things have changed for you, what you saw and noticed, what you are experiencing now.

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Signature Date

**Service Agreement**

*Michaelene Ruhl, PsyD*

I understand that I have the following rights with respect to therapy:

* My treatment information is considered confidential, and the staff will respect my   
  right to privacy with the except of the following:

Client records and other personal data will only be released with my prior, written   
approval, and after verbal explanation of the purpose and benefit of releasing such   
information. The exception is releasing information to accrediting, licensing,   
and payor organizations for financial and quality care reviews or to another healthcare   
provider in an emergency situation or for supervisory needs.

Information may also be released to the proper authorities if it is necessary to keep   
others or myself from being harmed. This includes abuse, neglect,   
exploitation, and endangerment.

* Information I provide is used to establish a diagnosis and treatment plan. I will participate in the development and implementation of a treatment plan, which will address my treatment needs.
* Professional decisions regarding treatment are at the discretion of Michaelene Ruhl, PsyD.
* My treatment plan may include medications, psychotherapy, group and individual counseling, referral, follow-up, out-reach, and support services.
* The result of treatment does not have a warranty or guarantee.
* I may discuss with my therapist any concerns or dissatisfactions I have with the care I receive.
* Release - Liability for Injury, Loss and Property Damage  
     
  The Client hereby releases the management of MRR PsyD LLP, its staff, employees, Board of Directors, interns, and volunteers from responsibility or liability to the Client for any loss, damage, or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever to person or property sustained by the Client or Client’s family while inside or outside the physical confines of MRR PsyD LLP or at any other location where MRR PsyD LLP provides services.  MRR PsyD LLP is further released from responsibility or liability for any loss or personal injury caused by other Clients, their family, trespassers, or the management, employees, interns, volunteers or any staff whatsoever.
* Client Fee agreement -  I understand that:
  + No promises or guarantees shall be offered to me concerning treatment services.
  + I shall be offered the customary and standard treatment.
  + Termination is usually an agreement between the therapist and myself but I have the freedom to discuss and discontinue treatment at any time.  
      
    I realize that:
  + There is a charge for counseling services and that payment for services is expected prior to receiving services.
  + I shall be responsible for any charges.  
      
    I agree:
  + To keep scheduled appointments or give 24-hour notice of cancellation.  If I give less than 24-hours’ notice of cancellation, I will be charged $100.00.  I will be charged my full session fee if I give no notice of cancellation.

I give my permission for treatment, as believed necessary, to the treatment staff, that includes but is not limited to: 1) psychological evaluation, 2) a psychiatric evaluation, and 3) drug screens. I understand that this may bring up issues of a highly personal nature that may cause me to experience emotional or physical responses that may be unexpected and/or unpleasant. By signing below, I willingly agree to the preceding statements and to hold harmless from all liability Michaelene Ruhl, PsyD.

This consent is active and valid until case is closed.

Consent:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name printed

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Signature Date