**CONFIDENTIALITY & INFORMED CONSENT**

**Confidentiality and Exceptions**

Thank you for seeking wellness support and counseling services at UW Law School. We firmly believe in your right to privacy. With some limited exceptions (see Wis. Stat. 146.82(2)), records related to your use of these services are confidential and will be released only when you have given your written permission.

Exceptions to confidentiality include:

1. If a staff person (i.e., a staff person is defined as counselors; student services staff; faculty supervisors) believes that you are at substantial risk of harming yourself or others.
2. If a medical emergency occurs while you are at our facilities.
3. Pursuant to a lawful court order.

Please initial the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand the confidentiality provisions outlined above.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my confidentiality will be preserved to the extent possible and information will be released only with my written permission unless an exception applies. The exceptions listed above have been explained to me, and Wis. Stat. 146.82 (2) has been shown to me upon request.

**Informed Consent**

Services provided by the Counselor(s) at UW Law School carry certain benefits, risks, and limits such as those described below:

**BENEFITS:** The benefits from counseling may be that problem areas which have interfered with your personal functioning and/or your relationships with others can be resolved or lessened, so that you will be better able to handle or cope with personal responsibilities and social relationships. Therefore, you may experience greater satisfaction from your daily life and interactions with others. Another possible benefit may be a better understanding of your own motives, values, and goals. This may lead to greater maturity and growth as a person.

**RISK:** Counseling may involve the risk of remembering and disclosing unpleasant events, and can arouse intense feelings of anxiety, depression, frustration, loneliness, and helplessness.

**MEDICAL LIMITS:** We are not a crisis or emergency services clinic. If you experience a crisis or emergency, please contact the Madison Police Department, UW Madison Police Department, or the emergency room for emergency services. The Counselors at UW Law School are not physicians. Therefore, no one at our facility can prescribe or provide you with medication or perform any medical procedures. If medical treatment is indicated, the Counselor at UW Law School will help connect you with a medical provider.

Although the main purpose of the wellness support and counseling services at UW Law School is to serve you, there are other processes that may be followed in the course of counseling. They are as follows:

**CONSULTATION / SUPERVISION:** While information will not be released to outside persons or agencies without your permission, as professionals we may confer with others for treatment purposes in a de-identified way.

**TERMINATION / REFERRAL:** Should it appear that the wellness support and counseling services at UW Law School may not or will not be appropriate for you, we will discuss this with you, make more appropriate referrals for you, and end services with you.

Please initial the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand the purpose and nature of the services recommended and I give voluntary consent for these services.

\_\_\_\_\_ A copy of this Confidentiality and Informed Consent form was offered to me at intake, and I have chosen to (check circle below)

* have a hard copy.
* keep my copy in a secure file in the counseling office.

Student’s signature

Staff signature & credential