

Appendix 5.3: Informed Consent for Internet Use

E-MAILS, CELL PHONES, COMPUTERS AND FAXES: It is very important to be aware that computers and e-mail and cell phone communication can be relatively easily accessed by unauthorized people and hence can compromise the privacy and confidentiality of such communication. E-mails, in particular, are vulnerable to such unauthorized access due to the fact that servers have unlimited and direct access to all e-mails that go through them. Additionally, Dr. X's e-mails and data on his/her computers are not encrypted. It is always a possibility that faxes can be sent erroneously to the wrong address and computers, including laptops, may be stolen. Dr. X's computers are equipped with a firewall, virus protection, and passwords, and he/she also backs up all confidential information from his computers onto CDs (stored off-site) on a regular basis. Please notify Dr. X if you decide to avoid or limit, in any way, the use of e-mails, cell phones or faxes, or storage of confidential information on computers. If you communicate confidential or private information via e-mail, Dr. X will assume that you have made an informed decision, will view it as your agreement to take the risk that such communication may be intercepted, and s/he will honor your desire to communicate on such matters via e-mail. Please do not use e-mail or faxes for emergencies. Due to computer or network problems, e-mails may not be deliverable, and Dr. X may not check her/his e-mails or faxes daily (Zur, 2011).

Zur, O. (2011). *I Love These Emails, or Do I? The Use of Emails in Psychotherapy and Counseling*. Retrieved from http://www.zurinstitute.com/email_in_therapy.html.