

# CROSSROADS

## COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION

### REFERRAL POLICY

CCC therapists are obligated under Oklahoma law and the individual therapist's Professional Code of Ethics to consider referring, or refer a client(s) under certain circumstances. Making clients aware of these circumstances is the client's right under the principle of "Informed Consent", whereby the client is informed about the general rules of the counseling process. In regard to referrals, these circumstances include, but are not limited to:

1. The client(s) needs are outside the clinician's "scope of practice", meaning not in the clinician's training and/or expertise. (AAMFT 3.10, Scope of Competence, and NASW 1.04a Competence, LPC 310: 405-3-2 Competence)
2. The therapist lacks an adequate familiarity or competence within the client(s) culture. This is referred to as a lack of "cultural competence". (NASW 105.b Cultural Competence and Social Diversity)
3. The therapist knows, or has dealings with the client(s) in some other context than the therapy relationship, creating what is called a "dual relationship". (AAMFT 1.3 Multiple Relationships, NASW 106.c Conflicts of Interest, LPC 310: 405-1-2.1. Dual Relationships)
4. The therapist experiences a severe values conflict with the client(s) stated goals, and/or determines the goals of the client will significantly harm the client's well-being or the well being of that of significant others in the client's life. In such a case, the therapist will attempt to resolve the values conflict with the client(s). If no resolution is reached, therapy cannot continue without the therapist being at risk of imposing their own values on the client(s). Therefore, a referral will be made. (AAMFT 3.4 Conflicts of Interest, NASW 1.02 Self Determination, 1.06a Conflicts of Interest)
5. The therapist becomes "unable or unwilling to provide professional help" [services]. (AAMFT 1.10 Referrals) Examples might include therapist illness, suspension of the license of a therapist, unethical demands placed upon a therapist to collude in what might harm the significant others of the client. (See # 4 above, end of first sentence)
6. [Therapists] should refer clients to other professionals when the other professionals' specialized knowledge or expertise is needed to serve the client(s) fully or when [therapists] believe that they are not being effective or making reasonable progress with clients and that additional service is required. (NASW 2.06a Referral for Services)

In each of these cases, the needs of the client(s) are paramount, and referrals will be executed respectfully by CCC therapists, with the best interests of the client in mind.

NASW - National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics

LPC – Licensed Professional Counselor, Acts and Regulations

AAMFT - American Association For Marriage and Family Therapy Code of Ethics

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_