

Professional Disclosure Statement

Sydney Elder, LCMHCA

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Thank you for considering me as your counseling provider. I'm excited to start working with you at Redfish Counseling (RFC). Below, you will find an outline of my training, information about my counseling work and session structure, and other important details.

Background & Qualifications

I am a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Associate (LCMHCA, License #A18920). This license means that my work meets state and national standards of clinical effectiveness and adherence to ethical commitment. I have worked in the mental health field since 2021 when I began my Master's program. I received a Master of Arts in Counseling from Wake Forest University with a focus in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in May 2023. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a Minor in Nonprofit Studies from North Carolina State University in May of 2021.

Counseling Approaches

In my previous experience, I have provided individual and group counseling for adolescents and adults. I have been trained to work with and am familiar with, but not limited to, the following presenting issues: life transitions, career development, anxiety, depression, suicide intervention, self harm behaviors, disordered eating, interpersonal relationship dynamics, and emerging adulthood. My experience with other concerns that clients may have is expanding as I continue working with clients in a clinical capacity. My approach to counseling takes a Person-Centered lens, which focuses on the development of the therapeutic relationship between the counselor and client. I also incorporate elements of existential therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) into my practice. My approach to counseling aims to emphasize to the client that they are the experts in their own life and that we will be working together to find ways that they can enhance their experiences in the world. I aim to help clients in ways that will address their needs while also working from a strengths-based perspective.

Session Fees & Length, and Insurance

Out-of-pocket fee rates for services are set by RFC. These rates can be viewed on the RFC website, and in your Client Portal in the "Standard Fee Schedule" form. Out-of-pocket rates for commonly provided sessions include: Intake (first) session: \$185; Individual 55-minute session: \$165; Family counseling session: \$180. If you are in need of an additional copy of this information, please do not hesitate to request one from myself or another RFC team member. I may be in-network with your insurance if you have a plan with Aetna, BCBS, CBHA, or MedCost. If my services are out-of-network for your insurance plan, your insurance may still cover some portion of service costs. Payment for services will be discussed prior to and at your initial session. RFC accepts cash, credit or debit cards, HSA and FSA debit cards, and checks.

Typically, a first session for a new client lasts 60 minutes. Standard individual and family sessions are 55-60 minutes long. Group session lengths may vary based on group structure. Sessions may have additional time added to them in advance (up to a total of 120 minutes).

Any outside services I provide may have related fees applied to them, per RFC policy. For example, while attending or testifying in Court is not a goal of counseling, fees for this service will be charged if court attendance or testifying is required.

I do not provide the following services:

- DWI assessments
- Custody evaluations
- I reserve the right to deny the provision of additional outside services based on clinical and professional discretion

Client Records and Confidentiality

After our first session, your RFC client record will be created. If you choose to utilize your insurance to cover service costs, this client record may include a diagnosis (which we will discuss). Most insurance companies require a diagnosis of a mental health or substance abuse condition before they will pay for any services.

RFC follows Federal Confidentiality requirements as outlined by HIPAA.

Confidentiality of your participation in therapy and the content of therapy sessions may be waived in the following situations:

- you or your legal guardian directs me in writing to disclose information to someone else;
- I or other RFC staff determine that you may face imminent risk of harm to self or others;
- there is indication of child or elder abuse; or
- I am directed by court order to disclose information specific to the court order.

In addition to the above methods for maintaining your confidentiality, clients are strictly prohibited from recording any audio or video of in-person or telehealth ("online counseling") sessions whatsoever.

Outside Relationships & Electronic Communication

Ethical and legal codes restrict me from engaging in any form of relationship with clients other than professional (including personal social media connections). This protects your personal rights and privacy. Our time together will be most valuable if viewed as a working relationship. If we happen to see each other outside of counseling, I will not acknowledge or approach you. This is to protect your confidentiality and privacy. You may approach and interact with me in public if you feel comfortable doing so. I will not discuss clinically-related information with you in public, and may choose not to introduce you to others I am spending time with in that instance - this also protects your privacy and helps ensure counseling work stays effective in session.

The use of electronic communication may be needed or preferred in some instances. These methods include phone (voice and text), email correspondence, and telehealth sessions. Although these forms of communication are very efficient, I cannot ensure that all electronic communications are entirely secure, and am not liable for potential breaches of privacy that may result from your use of any digital or electronic correspondence. The RFC Practice Policies outline RFC practices regarding electronic communication in more detail.

I do not provide after hours or emergency contact support through RFC. RFC provides clients with a list of emergency resources in the client portal, upon request, and on the RFC website at the bottom of the "FAQ" page. I recommend that you become familiar with these resources in the event of a situation where urgent assistance is needed.

Complaint Procedure

In the event that any part of our work together creates a cause for concern or complaint, please inform me immediately. I try to address any concern that clients voice as quickly and effectively as I possibly can. You may discontinue sessions with me at any time or request a referral, which I will be happy to assist you with. If you believe that I am in violation of the current ACA code of ethics at any point (http://www.counseling.org/Resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf), you may:

Contact RFC to discuss your concerns:

Phone: 336.914.3038

Redfish Counseling 1022 W 1st St, Ste #203 Winston-Salem, NC, 27101 Email: office@redfishcounseling.com

- OR -

File a	complaint	with the	organization	helow

North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors P.O. Box 77819, Greensboro, NC, 27417 **Phone**: 844-622-3572 or 336-217-6007

Fax: 336-217-9450
E-mail: Complaints@ncblpc.org

Acceptance of Terms		
l, a	agree to the terms of this Disclosure Statement and to abide by these	guidelines.
(print name)		
Client Signature	Date	
Parent/Guardian Signature (if client under 1	18) Date	
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