**How do I obtain consent from a client to use telecounseling if we cannot meet in-person?**Email the informed consent page to the client to review. Best practice would be for the client to reply to the email indicating their consent, or signing the form and sending it back to you (to have a paper trail). If you cannot obtain written permission, the client can provide verbal permission – though, you must document this in their file.

**Informed Consent for Teleadvocacy**

**Teleadvocacy** offers advocacy and support services via interactive video conferencing over the internet. Our teleadvocacyprogram was designed to improve access and continuity of care for survivors of sexual assault from any location. Survivors can connect confidentially to their advocate from their laptop, computer, smartphone, or tablet using the [doxy.me] platform.

**By agreeing to this form, you understand the following:**

1. [Center] operates out of the state of Iowa and abides by the laws and guidelines of the state and federal government, and the services standards of Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault with regard to advocacy, confidentiality, and all other laws and regulations applicable the practice of victim service advocacy.
2. Expected benefits of teleadvocacyinclude increased access to services, convenience, reduced travel costs, and time savings. Possible risks to using teleadvocacyinclude technological difficulties such as disrupted connections, inability to connect, or poor resolution of images. In very rare circumstances, security protocols could fail, causing a breach of privacy of personal information.
3. As the client, you understand that you have the right to withhold or withdraw your consent to the use of teleadvocacyservices without affecting your right to future services. In the event you feel teleadvocacyis determined to not be in your best interests, your advocate will suggest alternative options better suited to your needs.
4. As the client, you are responsible for (1) providing the necessary telecommunications equipment and internet access for teleadvocacysessions (2) the information security on your computer and (3) arranging a location with sufficient lighting and privacy that is free from distractions and intrusions to protect your privileged advocacy session. Your advocate can work with you to answer any questions you have about the aforementioned responsibilities.
5. As the individual utilizing teleadvocacy, you may choose the location to participate in teleadvocacy, such as home or work. Your advocate will help you think through the best place for you.
6. As the individual utilizing teleadvocacy, you are required to tell the advocate if any additional people are in the room with you. Your advocate is required to tell you if any additional people are present in the room with them during the session. You must verbally approve the person being in the room before the advocacy session can continue. If a person enters the room during the session, the advocate will briefly pause the session in order to protect confidentiality. You also agree to not record the session via audio or video technologies.
7. As the individual utilizing teleadvocacy, you understand that teleadvocacyis neither a universal substitute, nor the same as face-to-face advocacy. If you are experiencing an emergency situation, you understand that you can call 911 or proceed to the nearest emergency room for help. If a life threatening medical emergency were to occur, and you were unable to authorize the release of information, information limited to the medical emergency may be disclosed.

By signing this document, I have read and understand the above information provided regarding teleadvocacy. I have discussed it with my advocate and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I hereby give my informed consent for the use of teleadvocacy services and agree to follow the steps above.

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 Individual Date

**As a representative of [center], I have explained the above information to the client.**

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[Center] Representative Date