

§ **Shannon Thomas Counseling, Inc**
dba Southlake Christian Counseling

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Southlake Texas 76092
Phone: 817-897-8882

PRIVATE PAY (OPT-OUT) - MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT

According to Section 4507 of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, a mental health provider can enter into a private contract with a Medicare participant.

WHY IS A CONTRACT NEEDED?

Shannon Thomas Counseling, Inc, dba Southlake Christian Counseling, and myself, Shannon Thomas, as an individual mental healthcare provider, have chosen to “opt-out” from being a Medicare provider. My current opt-out period began January 1, 2024 and lasts for two years with the intent to renew the opt-out option. At no time do I plan to become a Medicare provider and it is required I have clients sign a private-pay medical services contract before services begin (new clients) or signed on or after January 1, 2024 for current clients.

WHO PAYS FOR SERVICES?

All session fees are paid by you, the client. Medicare will not reimburse you for counseling services received at my office.

WHAT ABOUT CHARGE LIMITS?

Medicare charge limits do not apply to private-pay services. I can determine the session rate I wish to offer my clients. I am not restricted by any Medicare fee schedule.

WILL MEDICARE HELP PAY FOR COUNSELING?

No. I have chosen not to participate as a Medicare provider. At no time can receipts provided to you by my office be submitted to Medicare for payment. Medicare will not pay for any services provided at my office.

IS MENTAL HEALTH COVERED BY MEDICARE?

Yes, but not through my office because I have chosen to opt-out as a Medicare provider. If you would like to use your Medicare coverage, please alert my office immediately of no further appointments and schedule an appointment with a provider connected with Medicare.

WILL MEDIGAP OR OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS HELP ME PAY FOR SERVICES HERE?

No. As a therapist who has opted out as a Medicare provider, no related coverage will help pay for fees charged for counseling services.

My NPI Number is: 1124262373

Patient Signature/Date

Provider Signature/Date