

Open Gate Project Consent Form

1. Purpose of Group Counseling

You are invited to participate in a group therapy program facilitated by Open Gate Project, specifically designed for individuals seeking support and treatment for gambling addiction. This group offers a safe and supportive environment to explore personal challenges, strengthen recovery skills, and build community among individuals with similar experiences.

2. Group Counseling Overview

Group therapy sessions are led by volunteer counselors who may not be credentialed medical professionals. The sessions are designed to help participants engage in open discussions, skill-building exercises, and peer support, but are not designed or to diagnose or treat any medical condition or disease. This is a therapeutic group and not a substitute for the advice of a licensed therapist or other medical professional. Participants may be referred to such services when appropriate.

3. Confidentiality

Confidentiality is fundamental to the therapeutic process. Our counselors will not disclose any identifying or clinical information outside the group except as required or permitted by law. All group members agree not to share any personal information, names, or content of group discussions with anyone outside the group and to refrain from recording or taking notes during sessions. Counselors may, however, have an obligation to disclose information involving threats of harm to self or others, child abuse, dependent adult abuse, or elder abuse, and in order to comply with court orders or other mandated reporting by state or federal law.

4. Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal

Participation is voluntary and based on your informed choice. You may discontinue participation at any time. However, we encourage open communication with the facilitator if you are considering withdrawing, as this supports continuity of care and group cohesion.

5. Attendance, Conduct, and Safety

To ensure a safe and effective group experience, please observe the following guidelines:

- Attendance: Consistent attendance is expected. Notify the facilitator in advance if you must miss a session.
- Punctuality: Please arrive on time; late arrivals disrupt group flow.
- Substance Use: Attending under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Respectful Communication: Use nonjudgmental and supportive language. Intimidation, harassment, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Technology: Phones and electronic devices must be silenced or turned off during group.

6. Risks and Benefits

The potential benefits of counseling are: increased insight into gambling behaviors and recovery tools, emotional and social support from peers, and enhanced motivation for change. The potential risks include: emotional discomfort due to sharing or hearing sensitive material, and the risk of inadvertent confidentiality breach by other members.

7. Consent and Signature

By signing below, I acknowledge that I:

- Have read and understood the content of this form;
- Understand the purpose, risks, and limitations of group therapy;
- Agree to maintain confidentiality as required;
- Consent to participate voluntarily in group counseling for gambling addiction through Open Gate Project.

Participant Full Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Facilitator Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____