

Suzann Lawry, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Therapy Information

Welcome to my practice. Here is some information that may be useful as we begin our work together. It is my hope that this will clarify some initial questions you may have. If you have additional thoughts and questions, please let me know so I can fully address them as we begin.

Session Length and Frequency

Sessions will run approximately 50 minutes. Typically the initial visit runs closer to an hour, and another 10 minutes is needed for paperwork, so plan on 75 minutes for your first time.

The frequency of sessions depends upon your needs. Typically, clients will come once per week at the same time until they are finished. While this is typical, your individual needs will vary. Some people work better having sessions every other week; others work better with multiple sessions in the same week. Similarly, some need their sessions to bend around work schedules each week; others need their session to be at the same time each week. Our work together will be collaboratively designed to best meet your needs.

Fee Schedule and Billing

My hourly rate is \$140.00, payable each week at the end of your session. Please be aware that my office does not have a credit card machine. If you are using insurance, I can provide a bill for you that you can turn in for reimbursement. The exception to this is Blue Cross Blue Shield. If this is your provider, my office is required to bill them directly; however, you are responsible for your deductible and co-pays.

If your insurance benefit runs out, you will be responsible for the bill, so please stay in contact with your insurance company even after we begin therapy. It is important to know the details of your deductible, the percentage of my full fee they cover, and if you have any session limits. This is to avoid having unexpected costs.

Returned checks will be charged any fees which result from their return.

Cancellations and Missed Appointments

If you need to cancel a scheduled appointment, please do so **24 hours in advance**. This allows me to offer that hour to someone else. One "emergency" cancellation (without 24 hours notice) is accepted per calendar year. ALL other cancellations will be billed if insufficient notice is given, even if it is an emergency. Be aware that insurance cannot be billed for missed appointments, so unfortunately, that means you will be billed my full fee without a potential for reimbursement.

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Psychological Emergencies

If you are experiencing a psychological emergency, you may use my emergency paging system by calling (678) 227-2579 and then leaving your name and phone number. You must leave an actual message or I will not be paged. Please reserve paging me for emergencies only. During business hours, if I do not call you back immediately, you can assume I am in session and have not yet retrieved your message. If you can wait, I check my pager between sessions and will call you then. If you cannot wait, or if I have been unable to return your call within an hour for some unforeseen reason, call your county's local mental health clinic whose number you can get by calling 411 or dialing 911. You can also receive crisis support by dialing the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (800) 715-4225.

Phone Calls

Extended phone calls (over 10 minutes) will be billed according to my hourly fee. For example, a 25 minute call would be billed at \$70.00. Shorter calls and calls to your insurance or other professionals on your behalf will not be billed.

It's a Small World...

If for some reason, we end up in the same public setting, like a restaurant or a coffee shop, I will take my cue from you and act accordingly. You are welcome to speak to me; however, I will not initiate a greeting unless you do so first. This is to protect your privacy.

Vacation/Illness

I will inform you in advance if I am sick, plan to be out of town, or on vacation. During my absence I will have another psychologist on call for emergencies. The name and phone number of this colleague will be on my voice mail during my absence. In the event of an unforeseen emergency, I would instruct my colleague to let you know.

Orientation/Treatment

I have been trained in both short term cognitive-behavioral and systemic approaches as well as longer term dynamic and interpersonal approaches. Consequently, working with me will most likely involve a blend where we tend to current problems as well as their historical roots. Regardless of the approach, I have tremendous respect for the power of the therapy relationship. I firmly believe the most important element of good therapy is a good relationship between us. Consequently, I tend to our relationship carefully and welcome any questions, concerns, or dissatisfactions you may have at any time.