**Tele-counseling Informed Consent- KPS Public Schools**

Dear KPS families,

During the current school closure, we will be able to provide tele-counseling services to your child. The Killdeer school counselors intend to maintain communication with students who may need counseling services at home. Our role is to provide your child with the additional support they need during this unprecedented public health situation. Whether your child needs a simple check-in or in-the-moment coping strategies, we are here to help.

**Tele-counseling Sessions**

Tele-counseling services will require online access through [**www.zoom.us**](http://www.zoom.us)with a meeting code provided by your school counselor who will email the meeting code after a student registers for a session by e-mail. If you would like to schedule a session, please email your school counselor and they will help you set up an online meeting time. If possible, please include a brief description of the student’s needs in the email request. An adult or older sibling should be available to help younger children request an appointment and sign into their session. Please note that your school counselor’s availability will be limited to certain hours.

**Confidentiality**

As a general rule, school counselors will keep the information your child shares with them in our sessions confidential, as would be expected in a traditional school setting. There are, however, important exceptions to this rule that are important for you to understand before your child shares personal information with us in a tele-counseling session. In some situations, we are required by law or by the guidelines of our profession to disclose sensitive information.

**Confidentiality cannot be maintained when:**

1. Your child discloses a plan to cause serious harm to themselves.
2. Your child discloses a plan to cause harm to others.
3. Your child discloses they are being harmed by someone else.

An exception to this rule is when a student gives permission for the school counselor to share what has been discussed with a trusted adult, such as a parent/legal guardian, teacher, and/or principal.

**Risks of Tele-counseling Services**

There are many benefits of tele-counseling services; however, there are potential risks with this technology as well.

These might include:

1. The video connection may not work or it may stop working during the tele-counseling session.
2. Due to the nature of the service, we cannot guarantee full confidentiality due to the nature of online communication and/or lack of control over end-user security. Zoom is an encrypted service and is very secure, but again, we cannot guarantee it with 100% certainty. We encourage a quiet and private space for your child where they will not be disturbed or interrupted during their tele-counseling session.

**Consent**

I have read this document and understand the benefits and risks of tele-counseling services made available by the school counselor of the KPS school district. I grant consent for my child to use this service. If I have any additional questions or concerns, I will contact my respective school counselor.

Signature of Legal Guardian Date

Printed Name of Legal Guardian Printed Name of Student

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Email of Legal Guardian Cell Phone