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## **General Information**

In mental health care, "scope of practice" refers to the knowledge, skills, experience, and level of care needed for the provision of effective therapy and counseling services to clients, as well as the mental health diagnoses and conditions clinicians are trained and experienced in diagnosing and treating.

When a client's presenting problem is outside of the scope of practice, there is an ethical responsibility to refer that client to a more appropriate provider and/or level of care. This is a requirement detailed in the ethical codes of psychologists, counselors, clinical social workers, and marriage and family therapists, and the requirement exists to protect clients from substandard care. Similarly, when the client's presenting problem is within the scope of practice, but the client, in the clinician's professional opinion, is not benefiting from counseling, the clinician is ethically required to terminate counseling and offer the client a referral.

## Objective

This statement describes the scope of practice of Jaime Brower Psychological Services and Consulting, Inc., hereafter referred to as Brower Psychological.

## Scope of Practice

The scope of practice of Brower Psychological represents a broad consensus regarding the range of knowledge and skills as well as specific techniques and modalities required to provide effective trauma-focused and trauma-informed psychological healthcare to emergency responders and their family members. This professional scope of psychological practice for emergency responders differs from the individual clinician's scope of practice. Specifically, an individual scope of practice is based on each clinician's training and experience beyond their master's degree program. Each clinician is ethically bound to limit their client practice to that individual scope.

Brower Psychological specializes in the culturally competent mental, emotional, behavioral, and relational healthcare of emergency responders. The specialty of Brower Psychological specifically addresses how work-related or personal circumstances, experience, and/or trauma may impact effective professional or personal functioning. Additionally, Brower Psychological

supports responders' family members, age 6 to adult, who may be impacted by their responder family member's work-related circumstances or experiences. Impacts for the responder or their family member(s) may be addressed with short-to-medium term individual, couples, or family therapy. Therapeutic modalities and techniques commonly utilized at Brower Psychological include but are not limited to: EMDR Therapy (EMDR); Attachment-focused EMDR Therapy (AF-EMDR); Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); Positive Psychology; Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT); Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy (MB-CBT); Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction (MBSR); Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT); Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT); Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT); Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT); Interpersonal Neurobiology (IPNB); Humanistic and Existential Therapy; Sand Tray Therapy; Play Therapy; and, Stages of Change.

Due to the specialty that delineates the scope of practice, scheduling priority is reserved for clients who experience or are directly impacted by Potentially Traumatic Events (PTEs) such as an Officer Involved Shooting (OIS), Critical Incident (CI), or other work-related call.

With the exception for trauma therapy (work-related, personal, relational), the scope of practice does NOT include <u>intensive treatment</u> for major psychiatric problems or diagnoses including but not limited to: suicidality; homicidality; substance use disorder or addiction; personality disorders; developmental/intellectual/relational disorders or disabilities; chronic, treatment resistant depression or anxiety; sexual dysfunction. Additionally, the scope of practice does NOT include long-term psychological or psychiatric care.

When a client presents with concerns outside of the scope of practice including a requirement for a higher level of care, the client will be triaged and referred to another provider for appropriate treatment. Whenever possible a referral to a specific provider or treatment center will be made.

Brower Psychological may accept a client for short-to-medium term outpatient treatment following successful completion of any required higher levels of care. For high acuity concerns and/or substance use disorder/addiction, the levels of care are (listed in descending order) In-patient/residential treatment or hospitalization

- Partial hospitalization program (PHP)
  - Intensive outpatient program (IOP)
    - Outpatient therapy

Brower Psychological reserves the right to assess and reevaluate a client's readiness for outpatient therapy to ensure the needs are within the scope of practice and practice level of care.