



MHS DBT Program Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance is necessary for DBT programming to be effective. Research has shown that consistent attendance leads to better results in therapy. Attendance, timeliness, and consistency are also life skills.

It is expected that program members attend all program sessions. Please schedule other appointments around your DBT programming. Attending all scheduled program groups consistently is an essential part of progress not just for individuals, but for the group as a whole. While the policy accounts for absences for illness, emergencies, and other causes, absences are counted regardless of the reason for missing programming. There are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences.

If you miss more than 1 out of 10 sessions, you will receive an **attendance contract** for the next 10 sessions. Your therapist will discuss and problem-solve barriers to attendance with you, and may include members of your treatment team as needed. While on an attendance contract you must attend 9 of the 10 sessions to end the attendance contract. If you miss more than 1 of 10 sessions while on an attendance contract you will receive a 10-day **discharge contract** and barriers to attendance will be discussed with all who can help you succeed. Like the attendance contract, you must attend 9 out of 10 of these sessions. If you miss more than one of those 10 sessions, you can be discharged from the program and cannot reapply until the barriers to attendance have been successfully addressed. The goal of all contracts is to support success in programming.

At the discretion of the program, allowances for circumstances beyond a person’s control will be considered prior to discharge. For this to occur documentation of the cause of the absence may be required.

You are responsible for keeping your therapist and the program informed if you have to miss your program session. Always call before programming if you will be absent.

Three consecutive absences without phone calls will be grounds for discharge.

If you are late to an individual therapy session, depending on your history of tardiness and the availability of the therapist, your session could be canceled or rescheduled.

Three instances of tardiness, in a short period of time, count as an absence. A tardy is returning late after break or arriving late for the start of programming.

A **Leave of Absence (LOA)** may be granted at the discretion of the therapist/treatment team and must be planful with a clear time-limit. It is your responsibility to contact your therapist and team during an LOA. Documentation to support a LOA may be required.

Acknowledged by: _____