

SOUTHWESTERN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC.
FEE POLICY

The Southwestern Mental Health Center is a private nonprofit organization offering a variety of services within the five counties it serves, e.g. Cottonwood, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock & Jackson. The income of the Center is dependent upon client fees, local, state and federal tax dollars, charitable contributions, and other private funds.

Clients are requested to pay their private pay fees, deductibles, co-insurance, co-pays and sliding fees at the time of service.

The Center has established a standard hourly rate for various types of services. These rates are comparable to rates charged for similar treatment throughout the community.

A sliding fee scale has been devised for those individuals and families in our service area who are without a healthplan. The sliding fee is based on household income.

In order to qualify for the sliding fee, it will be necessary to provide income verification, such as wage and salary statements or an income tax return on all wage earners in the household. Individual household members access to health insurance will not interfere with their eligibility for the sliding fee scale. In some instance, clients will be charged the full cost of services received, until household income is verified. Emergency services will not be denied because of inability to pay. Persons on Medical Assistance (MA), General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), or MinnesotaCare (MNCare) will not be charged a client fee for services per regulations set forth by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

I also understand that I may request and the Center may mutually agree to adjust my hourly fee to reflect changes in my income or family status or for other unusual circumstances.

All clients who are unable to pay their private pay fees, deductibles, co-insurance and sliding fees at the time of service for two consecutive follow-up and/or routine appointments, when clinically appropriate, will not be rescheduled until the account is reconciled. SWMHC, when appropriate, will make the necessary referrals for financial assistance and/or another suitable provider.

While Southwestern Mental Health Center Business Department does submit claims for our clients, we do not guarantee insurance coverage of services. We will assist our clients where possible in obtaining insurance coverage but do not assume responsibility if insurance does not cover charges.

If a client becomes more than 60 days in arrears of their fees, services will be discontinued. Exceptions to the discontinuation policy will be made only where the client situation is of an emergency nature. If a client becomes 90 days in arrears of their fees, client's rights of confidentiality will be forfeited for collection purposes. Payment in full is expected within six months of termination.

Questions regarding fees should be directed to the Business Office, Southwestern Mental Health Center, PO Box 686, Luverne MN 56156-0686 or Phone 507-283-9511.