**Emergency Self-Care Worksheet**

**Why do I need to do this?**

It is very hard to think of what to do for yourself when things get tough. It is best to **have a plan ready** for when you need it.

***What should be in it?***

You need to consider 3 general areas: what to do, what to think, and what to avoid.

**1. Make a list of what you can do when you are upset that will be good for you**.

**a. What will help me relax?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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For example,

* Breathing, Muscle relaxation, music
* Praying, worship
* Reading for fun, watching a movie
* Exercising, Taking a walk

**b. What do I like to do when I’m in a good mood?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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List all the things you like to do so you remember what they are when you need to think of something to do.

**c. What can I do that will help me throughout the day?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Avoid too much caffeine if feeling anxious
* Remember to breathe
* Watch my thoughts
* Stay in the moment

**d. Other: What else do YOU need to do that is specific to YOU**? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Make a list of people you can contact if you need support or distraction.**

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For example, your best friend, other friends, sibling, parent, grandparent, other relative, therapist, minister/rabbi/imam, etc.

• Divide the list of people into categories by asking yourself the following questions:

* Who can I call if I am feeling depressed or anxious?
* Who can I call if I am lonely?
* Who will come over to be with me if I need company?
* Who will listen?
* Who will encourage me to get out of the house and do something fun?
* Who will remind me to follow my self-care plan?
* Other:

**3. Next, make a list of positive things to say to yourself when you are giving yourself a hard time.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Examples of negative self-talk:

* “I’m so stupid” CHANGE to: “I’m good at lots of things”
* “This isn’t fair” CHANGE to: “Sometimes things don’t go my way, but it’s ok”
* “I can’t get all this work done. I should just give up” CHANGE to: “I will develop a schedule so that I can get this all done.”
* “I’ve not done this before” CHANGE to: “It’s an opportunity to learn something new”

**4. Next, make a list of who and what to avoid when you are having a hard time.**

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* My boy(girl)friend broke up with me. I will not call my sister as she always hated him. She’ll be happy he’s gone.
* I didn’t get the job and I feel a failure. I will not call my dad. He won’t be supportive and will think I didn’t try hard enough. He’ll just give me a hard time.
* I feel like giving up and just going back to my old behaviour. I won’t call my old friends because they will just encourage me to quit.

Not everyone can be supportive or helpful with every situation. Go to the ones who can be supportive about the specific issue you are dealing with.

Examples of things to avoid:

* I should not stay in the house all day.
* I should not stay in bed all day.
* I should open the shades and let the light in.
* I should not listen to sad music.
* I should not drink too much alcohol.
* Other:

**5. Keep this plan where you can see it.** Maybe in your purse/wallet (and on your phone if you can). Look at it often. Add any good ideas to it whenever you can. USE IT!