### ★ What It Is ★

Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE) is a research-supported, short-term, effective therapy to address symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

## ★ How It Works ★

PE helps you process traumatic events by gradual and repeated exposure to trauma-related memories, emotions, and situations. PE is typically 8-15 weekly sessions.

# **★** What It Helps **★**

PE is an effective treatment for PTSD. It is considered a "Gold Standard" treatment, meaning that it has the highest level of research evidence to support its use.

## Counseling Sessions Focus On

- · Learning about symptoms of PTSD
- · Learning breathing techniques to manage distress
- Imaginal exposure: Repeatedly revisiting the traumatic memory in a safe environment, describing the event aloud in detail
- In vivo exposure: Repeatedly engaging in activities, situations, or behaviors that have been avoided since the trauma, but are not normally dangerous

#### Goals Include

- Reengaging with people, places, activites, and thoughts you have been avoiding
- · Improving your feelings of safety, competence, and well-being
- · Developing healthier and more realistic ways of seeing the world
- · Changing unhealthy, unhelpful behavioral patterns





