Common Distressing Symptoms / Issues / Problem Chart

During the last 6 months, check all that you have or are currently experiencing

Emotions	Somatic	Cognition	Behaviors (D)	Negative Beliefs
(E)	(S)	(C)	(Defense Response)	(NB)
Irritation Frustration Annoyed Anger Rage Confused Excessive Worry Overwhelm Fearful Scared Anxious Panic Guilt Shame Remorse Despair Depressed Sad Hopeless Helpless Lonely Insecure Alone/ isolated Resentful Abandoned Indifferent Alone Contempt Weak Bored Numb Detached Jealous Envious Dismissive Disgust Repulsed Embarrassed Revolted	Heart Palpitations Chest Pain Choking feeling, feeling smothered Lack of appetite Chronic back pain Drained Panic Attacks On-edge Muscle tension Panic Attacks Hypervigilant On alert Easily startled Shaking Trembling Sweating Difficulty breathing Overly energized Low energy Restlessness Inability to sit still Stomach aches Headaches Migraines Weight loss Weight gain Difficult with falling asleep or staying asleep Nightmares Flashbacks Auto-immune Unexplained medical issues Chronic Pain Nausea, vomiting Digestive Issues Low energy Shut down Decreased need for sleep	Poor Attention / prob with focus Memory loss /lapse Racing thoughts Confusion Intrusive thoughts Difficulty with concentration Difficulty making decisions Memory problems / lapse Chronic self-criticism Over thinking Distrust of others Forgetfulness Intrusive memories Rumination Phobias Low motivation Brain fog Behaviors (D) (Defense Response) Excessive exercising Overly agreeable Wanting to run away Procrastination Communication problems Neglect on self care Difficulty saying no Unhealthy boundaries Avoiding conflicts Unhealthy or toxic relationships Parenting difficulties Marital discord Physically harming others	Anger Outbursts Yelling / Screaming Excessive alcohol use Excessive gambling Drug use Excessive shopping / spending Overly caring for others Avoiding certain people, places, situations, or topics Work-a-holic Overachieving Uncontrollable emotions Withdrawal / Isolation Making insulting comments Making excuses for behaviors Inability to ask for help Needing validation from others Spying on someone Difficulty to hear others opinions Cutting, skin picking, hair pulling Suicidal threats or gestures Sexual difficulties Hoarding People pleasing Co-dependent "clingy" Sabotaging relationships Excessive social media Food purging Zoning Out	I am a bad person It's not okay to be me I'm damaged I'm worthless (unworthy) I'm insignificant (unimportant) I deserve to die I deserve bad things I am stupid I am ugly I am different/ I don't belong I am unlovable I did something wrong I should have known better I should have done something I am to blame (it's my fault) I cannot trust myself I cannot trust myself I cannot safe I'm going to die I cannot stand up for myself I am not in control I have to be perfect (please everyone) I cannot succeed I cannot get what I want I am inadequate I am trapped I am a failure I will fail I cannot connect I don't belong I am alone

Nervous System Stress Response - Emotions

Ventral Vagal Social Connection Safe, social, relaxed Finds safety in connection Parasympathetic Nervous System	Flight - Sympathetic- mobilization Need a greater sense of safety - escape Seeks safety via action Sympathetic Nervous System	Fight - Sympathetic- mobilization Need something to move or change - conflict Seeks safety via action Sympathetic Nervous System	Freeze/Fawn- Dorsal Vagal - immobilization Need connection to self, and others but seeks safety via disconnection Parasympathetic Nervous System
□ Нарру	☐ Fear	☐ Anger	☐ Sad
Joyful Ecstatic Liberated Proud Confident Important Optimistic Open Inspired Peaceful Hopeful Loving Calm Creative Grateful Supported Contentment Surprised Confused Disillusioned Startled Shocked Dismayed Amazed Astonished Awe Excited Eager Energetic	Scared - fearful Helpless Frightened Anxious Overwhelmed Excessive Worrying Insecure Inadequate Inferior Weak Worthless Insignificant Rejected Excluded Insecure Threatened Nervous Exposed	Hurt	Hurt Embarrassed Disappointed Depressed Inferior Empty Guilty Remorseful Ashamed / Shame Despair Grief Powerless Helplessness Vulnerable Victimized Victimized Victim as identity Fragile Lonely Isolated Empty Numbness Unworthiness Hopeless Abandoned Bored Apathetic Indifferent Inhibited anger Utter aloneness

Nervous System Stress Responses - Somatic

Ventral Vagal Social Connection Safe, social, relaxed	Sympathetic - Fear Need a greater sense of safety - escape Sympathetic - Anger Need something to move or change - conflict		Dorsal Vagal Need connection to self, others		
Generally in head and neck	Generally in chest	Generally in chest	Generally in gut		
Calm heart rate	Heart Palpitations / increased heart rate/chest pain		Low energy		
Grounded	☐ Panic attacks		☐ Fatigue		
☐ At ease	☐ Muscle tension / on	-edge / jumpy	☐ Detached / Disconnected		
☐ Deep regular breathing	☐ Physically / mentally checking out		☐ Breathing problems		
Open body language	☐ Hypervigilant / On a	alert	☐ Hallow		
Rhythmic variation of vocal tone	Shaking / Trembling / sweating		☐ Heavy		
Other	☐ Difficulty Breathing	☐ Difficult with sleep / over or under			
Other	Overly energized		Chronic fatigue		
	Restlessness / Inab	oility to sit still	Loss or gain weight		
	☐ Stomach ache		☐ Auto-immune		
	☐ Headache/ Migraine	9	Unexplained physical symptoms		
	Loss or gain weight	Numb			
	☐ Difficult with sleep		☐ Brain fog		
	☐ Nightmares / Flashbacks		☐ Shut down		
	☐ Auto-immune		☐ Slouched posture		
	Unexplained physical / medical issues				
	☐ Nausea, vomiting				
☐ Digestive issues					
Places we store unwanted emotions					
Lower back - Anger Head and Chest - Hurt Neck and Shoulders - E Voice and Throat - Op Insomnia - Loss of Self	Burdens and Responsibilities pression	☐ Headac ☐ Fatigue	Stomach and Intestines - Fears Headache - Loss of Control Fatigue - Resentments Numbness - Trauma		

Nervous System Stress Response - Behavioral Defenses

Ventral Vagal Social Connection Safe, social, relaxed	Flight - Sympathetic- mobilization Need a greater sense of safety - escape	Fight - Sympathetic- mobilization Need something to move or change - conflict	Freeze/Fawn- Dorsal Vagal - immobilization Need connection to self, others (freeze = combo of sympathetic and dorsal)
Behaviors "I can"	Behaviors - Hyper-arousal "I must now" "I need to run"	Behaviors - Hyper-arousal "I must now" "I need to fight back"	Behaviors- Hypo-arousal "I can't" "I can't cope"
□ Calm □ Engaged and Curious □ Compassionate □ Connected to people □ Able to make decisions □ Loving and empathetic □ Mindful □ Caring □ Nurturing □ Communicate well □ Ready to learn □ Able to problem-solve □ Able to self-regulate □ Able to express needs □ Able to keep healthy boundaries □ Able to self-soothe □ Stable mood □ Deeper relationship connections	Relationship discord Emotional reactivity - defensiveness Avoidance behaviors Phobias Fears of failing Impulsivity Fixing / controlling/micromanagi ng Self-sabotaging behaviors Emotional overwhelm/feeling out of control Perfectionism Extreme attention to detail Wanting to hide or run or quit Performance / social anxiety Overthinking/rumination Over preparing Poor concentration Preoccupied Procrastination Constantly on the go, fidgety, always busy Self-critical Inability to ask for help Overachiever / workaholic Difficulty relaxing Social Avoidance Overeating / Binge eating Undereating/restrictive eating Purging food Overspending Excessive Alcohol /drug use Difficulty organizing tasks Risky behaviors	Impulsive Relationship Discord Emotional Reactivity Difficulty forgiving Overly assertive Communication problems Insult, blame, mistreat Aggression / Bullying Showing off / clown Getting defensive Picking a fight Saying mean or unkind things Demanding / dominating Uncontrollable yelling / Screaming Hitting or throwing objects Controlling behaviors Not listening Blaming / Criticizing Withdrawing trust / suspicious Difficulty relaxing Omitting/withholding information Attempts to hurt others Legal problems Feeling trapped	Unhealthy or unstable relationships Self-harming / self-injury Catastrophic thinking Avoiding conflict Communication problems Difficulty with problem-solving / indecisiveness Lack of identity Chronic suicidal preoccupation Letting others take control Loss of interest in activities Isolation (freeze) Couch potato (freeze) Dissociate (freeze) Diminished sex drive Difficulty with boundaries Difficulty standing up for self (freeze) Spacing out / zoning out (freeze) Codependent - clingy Difficulty making decisions Isolation - withdrawal Excessive/uncontrollable/in tense sobbing Disconnects from mind/body (freeze) Conforms to others' wishes (fawn) Poor self-care (fawn) Shutdown - despair (fawn) Giving up, not caring (fawn) Giving up, not caring (fawn) Giving up, not caring (fawn) Wanting to fit in (fawn) Overly flattering (fawn) Unmotivated (fawn) Memory Lapses Self-blame

EMDR Cognitions

Negative Cognitions

Responsibility Value (Shame)

I am a bad person I am shameful I am terrible I'm a failure

I am permanently damaged Something is wrong with me

I don't deserve to be I am worthless

I am insignificant /not important

I deserve to die

I deserve only bad things

I am stupid

I am ugly/inadequate My body is ugly It's not okay to be me

Responsibility: Action (Guilt)

I did something wrong / It's my fault
I should have known better
I should have done something
I am to blame (It's my fault)
I cannot be trusted
I am a bad person
I have to do it all

Safety/Vulnerability

I cannot trust myself
I cannot be trusted
I cannot trust my judgment
I cannot trust anyone
I am in danger / I cannot protect myself
It's not okay to feel (show) emotions
I'm going to die

Control/Choice

I am not in control
I have to be perfect (please everyone)
I am powerless (helpless)
I cannot do what I want
I am weak
I have no options / trapped

Connection/Belonging

I cannot connect
I am unwanted / I don't belong
I'm invisible / Insignificant / don't matter
I am alone
I am unworthy of love

Positive Cognitions

Responsibility: Value (Shame)

I am a good person I am honorable I am fine as I am I am capable

I am (can be) healthy

I can be myself

I deserve....I can have

I am worthy

I am significant / Important / essential

I deserve to live / I am I deserve good things

I am intelligent (I am able to learn)
I am fine (attractive, loveable)
My body is fine (attractive, loveable)

I can be me

Responsibility: Action (guilt)

I learned from it / It's not my fault
I did the best I could
I did the best that I could
I am not to blame
I can be trusted
I am a good person
It wasn't my fault

Safety/Vulnerability

I can trust myself
I am trustworthy
I can trust my judgment
I can choose whom to trust
I am safe now/ It's over
I can show emotions / It's safe to feel
I am safe now / It's over / I'm alive

Control/Choice

I am (now) in control
I can be myself (I can make mistakes)
I (now) have choices
I have enough opportunities/alternatives
I am strong
I (now) have choices / I have options

Connection/Belonging

I can choose whom to connect with I belong / I matter
I can be seen / I matter
I am not alone / I am connected
I am loveable/worthy of love

Attachment through Polyvagal Lens

Secure Attachment	Anxious	Attachment	Avoidant Attachment	Disorganized	Attachment	
Ventral Vagal	Sympathetic		Dorsal Vagal	Dorsal Vagal		Freeze
Self-confident, attunement to self and others	Low self worth. Over-focused on others Under-focused on self		Desires and fears of intimacy. Connection is dangerous and emotions may seem hard to access.	Both anxious and avoidant attachment. Intimate relationships feel confusing and trusting may seem unfamiliar. "I crave connection but am terrified of it"		
"I feel you feeling me and I'm okay on my own"	"I'm not okay by myself"		"I pull away when people want to connect"			