

When one partner's sexual concern needs its own room

I'm Joseph Maron, MS, LPC, a sex therapist seeing Pennsylvania adults by telehealth. Sometimes one partner needs individual space to work on a sexual concern while couples therapy continues. I see that partner individually, so they can bring what they learn back to the work with you.

Consider a referral when your client...

Has a sexual concern that keeps stalling the work.

Low desire, for example, can come from one partner's own experience as well as from the relationship.

Is stuck in a desire difference with their partner.

Clinical guidance on desire differences includes exploring each partner's own sexual needs.

Has erection, orgasm, arousal, or pain concerns.

Individual sessions give these concerns focused time.

Has trauma that shows up in sex or touch.

Trauma is one of several factors that can quietly suppress desire.

Is exploring identity, kink, or relationship structure.

Kink and consensual non-monogamy are ordinary here; no structure is assumed.

Can't yet say it in a joint session.

Individual sessions can help a partner prepare to raise it there.

Tandem care, not a hand-off

STAYS WITH YOU

The relationship itself · Conflict, attachment, communication · Relationship decisions

I WORK ON

Individual sexual concerns · Trauma and sex · Identity and kink · Joint-session prep

Shared: with your client's permission, I coordinate with you so both plans support each other.

WHY IT FITS In a five-year follow-up of couple therapy (different-sex couples), sexual gains faded; the authors suggest adding sex therapy techniques.¹ Psychological treatments, including CBT and mindfulness-based approaches, improve sexual function and sexual distress compared with no treatment in controlled trials.² No study has tested this concurrent model directly.

TO REFER · JOE MARON THERAPY

Your client requests a free 15-minute consult at [JosephMaronLPC.com](https://www.JosephMaronLPC.com)

Or call **215-804-9315**. Want to talk a referral through first? Call me at the same number.

Telehealth only · Adults in Pennsylvania · Private pay, superbills provided

Tell your client: sex therapy is talk therapy. No touch, no exam.

Doctoral student in human sexuality, Widener University · Certificate in Affirmative Therapy for Transgender Communities · ADHD-CCSP · LGBTQ+ affirming

¹ Rothman et al., *J Sex Marital Ther* 2021. ² Frühauf et al., *Arch Sex Behav* 2013; Liu et al., *J Sex Med* 2026.



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