

TERMS OF COUNSELING

The counseling ministry at The Church at Liberty Park is a Bible based counseling program. It is accountable to the leadership of The Church at Liberty Park. Counselors who participate in this ministry have been certified by the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors. All who serve in this ministry exhibit a high level of commitment and compassion. Because of our commitment to training others for this ministry, there may be times when someone in training may observe or participate in your counseling sessions. These will be times when deemed appropriate by your Counselor and with your permission.

CHARGES

Counseling services are provided without charge to the members of The Church at Liberty Park and to the members of the community at large (persons receiving counseling are hereafter referred to as "Counselees"). A "Love Offering" for the ministry is appreciated.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: when a Counselor is uncertain how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another professional in the counseling ministry or a pastor at The Church at Liberty Park; when a Counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; or when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin or behavior and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (Proverbs 15:22; Matthew 18:15-20). Please be assured that our Counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible. Counselors refer any Counselee who appears to be in a suicidal condition to an appropriate authority trained to provide care and protection. All Counselors report any incident of suspected child abuse, domestic violence, destructive threats, or subpoenas to the appropriate authorities as required by law. Certain laws require that Counselors warn the appropriate individuals if any Counselee expresses an intent to or appears likely to take harmful, dangerous or criminal action against any person.

APPOINTMENT CANCELLATION POLICY

Please notify the office of The Church at Liberty Park or the Counselor at least 24 hours in advance if you cannot keep a scheduled appointment so that we may serve others.

NOT PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Some of our Counselors work in professional fields outside the church. When serving as Counselors within this church, however, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do in their professional capacities. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical, or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional. Our pastoral staff and Counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principles.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

THE UNDERSIGNED, having sought Biblical counseling such as offered by The Church at Liberty Park, a non-profit religious organization, hereby acknowledges his/her understanding of the above and the following conditions:

1. It is understood by the participant Counselee that Biblical counseling will be provided by Counselors certified by the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors, not licensed therapists;
2. It is understood by the participant Counselee that all counseling provided in the Biblical Counseling Program/Ministry is provided in accordance with the Biblical principles adhered to by The Church at Liberty Park and are not necessarily provided in adherence to any local or national psychological or psychiatric association;
3. It is understood by the participant Counselee that no representation has been made, either expressly or implied, that the Biblical counseling, as conducted by the above mentioned Counselors, is accepted as customary psychological and/or psychiatric therapy within the definitional terms utilized by those professions.
4. It is understood by the participant Counselee that certain statements may not be protected as privileged communications under law.
5. The undersigned participant Counselee understands and agrees that any dispute with a Counselor or with The Church at Liberty Park arising from or related to counseling will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedures* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries.
6. By signing this consent, I agree that I will not attempt to subpoena or require any Counselor to appear in any legal proceeding related to any matters discussed during counseling; nor will I attempt to subpoena any notes or records related to this counseling. Furthermore, I release The Church at Liberty Park, its agents, Counselors, and employees, from any liability or claim arising from the Counselee's participation in the above mentioned Biblical Counseling program.

COUNSELEE

DATE

STAFF OR COUNSELOR

DATE