

# Counseling Policy Form

My name is Dr. Brian Ellsworth, I have a Ph.D. in clinical Christian counseling and am a professional, licensed Pastoral Counselor with training in individual, children's, family, premarital, marriage, grief, trauma, anger management and depression. (I am not a Psychiatrist or Psychologist) I am also a *Licensed Temperament Therapist*. I want to share some information about myself and what I do in counseling so you can make a fully informed decision about using my services.

First and foremost, I am a Christian counselor. As a Christian counselor I believe that hiding our beliefs and trying to do value-free counseling is both unwise and impossible to do, so I want you to know what my important values and beliefs are.

Like most counselors, I recognize that personal problems can come about because of physiology, social-environmental influences and psychological pressures.

I also believe that many problems can be spiritual in nature, resulting from either not understanding biblical truth or from sinful behavior. I also believe that individuals are created in God's image and can only feel complete and fulfilled through relationships with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Thus, Christian counseling, as opposed to other kinds of counseling, is very concerned with the spiritual as well as the emotional and physical needs of the clients. The main goal of Christian counseling, like the goal of Christian living, is to enable clients to move toward greater emotional and spiritual health by becoming more like Jesus Christ.

As a Christian counselor I am not limited to psychological techniques or to my own human effort and wisdom. I believe that God is the real authority in counseling and He gives us the resources to change, I believe that counseling without the JESUS FACTOR is about as effective as applying a band-aid over a bacteria infested wound. I believe counseling should involve praying about the client's difficulties and looking to the authority of the bible for guidance. In this way, I seek to encourage clients to build a dependency on God. The client can find forgiveness from the past, strength and comfort for the present, and hope for the future by trusting the Lord to daily meet needs and heal emotional wounds. I try to reflect the character of Jesus Christ and to love my clients as He does. While I do not try to force religion on my clients, I do urge them to develop a RELATIONSHIP with the only true Healer of body, soul and spirit, JESUS CHRIST.

## WORK AGREEMENT

It is agreed that the client shall make a good-faith effort at personal growth and engage in the counseling process as an important priority at this time in his or her life. Suspension, termination or referral shall be discussed between counselor and client for a pattern of behavior that reveals disinterest or lack of commitment to counseling or for any unresolved conflict or impasse between counselor and client.

## CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

All therapeutic communications, records, and contacts with professional and support staff will be held in strict confidence. Information may be released, in accordance with state law, only when (1) the clients sign a written release of information indicating informed consent to such release; (2) the client expresses serious intent to harm himself/herself or someone else; (3) there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elderly person (sixty-five years or older), or dependent adult; or (4) a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information. It is our policy to assert either (a) privileged communication in the event of #4 or (b) the right to consult with clients, if at all possible barring an emergency, before mandated disclosure in the event of #2 or #3. Although we cannot guarantee it, we will endeavor to apprise clients of all mandated disclosures.

Clients with any concerns or questions about this policy agree to raise them with their counselor at the earliest possible time to resolve them in the client's best interest.

## COURT PROCEEDINGS

If you involve me in any court proceedings there is a \$2500.00 retainer fee due prior to my involvement.

Preparation time (including submission of records), Phone calls, Deposition, Time required in giving testimony, Time away from office (including travel time) due to depositions or testimony, Filing a documents with the court -- all are charged at \$250.00/hour with a minimum charge of one hour per incident.

All attorney fees and costs incurred as a result of the legal action will be charged to the client.

The minimum charge for a court appearance: \$1500 plus \$250.00 per hour away from the office.

## CANCELING POLICY

I require a 24 hour advance canceling of any appointment; if you are a no show (more than 15 min. late) or cancel in the 24 hour window you will be charged an additional \$45.00 at your next appointment.

I understand that life happens and that there may be times that something comes up and you are unable to cancel in the 24 hour window so I will not charge you for the first missed appointment. (grace)

Clients Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent (Guardian) Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent (Guardian) Signature\_\_\_\_\_

(Both parents/guardian must sign)

Date\_\_\_\_\_