



Client Informed Consent

Philosophy: We provide caring, compassionate, professional counseling and will endeavor to meet you where you are and respect you and your beliefs.

Counseling Relationship: Counseling sessions will last for approximately 50 minutes for adults and 30 to 45 minutes for minors based on attention span. The counseling contact will be limited to counseling sessions you arrange with your staff counselor except in cases of crisis. We ask that you attend all scheduled sessions and notify us 24 hours in advance of cancellation. Emergency cancellations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If appropriate notice is not given, then you will be charged "in full" for your missed session. Please understand that the missed appointment fee will be invoiced and mailed to your address on file and that third-party payors do not pay for missed appointments.

Effects of Counseling: Counseling is a personal exploration and may lead to major changes in your life perspective and decisions. These changes may affect significant relationships, your job, and your understanding of yourself. Some of these life changes could be temporarily distressing. The exact nature of these changes cannot be predicted. We will work to achieve the best possible results for you. Some clients need only a few counseling sessions to achieve their goals while others may require months or sometimes years of counseling. You are in complete control and may end the counseling relationship at any time, though we do ask that you participate in a termination session.

Counseling Sessions: Although counseling sessions may be very intimate psychologically, it is important for you to realize that we have a professional relationship rather than a social one. Our contact will be limited to sessions you arrange with the counselor or receptionist. Please do not extend invitations to social gatherings, ask us to write references for you, or ask us to relate to you in any way other than in the professional context of our counseling sessions. You will be best served while we are seeing you for counseling if the relationship remains strictly professional and if our sessions concentrate exclusively on your concerns.

Counseling Minors: It is important that your child is able to establish a trusting relationship with his/her counselor; therefore, the counselor will give the parent his or her opinion about the interaction with the minor client. Sometime during the session, a disclosure may occur which should be shared with the parent. In this case, the counselor will ask the parent into the counseling session and then allow the child to make the appropriate disclosure to the parent or the counselor will make the disclosure in the presence of the child when appropriate. ***Since counseling of minors often concern parental issues, the parent must be willing to address those issues to make appropriate changes based on the recommendations of the child's counselor.***

Referrals: Should you and/or your counselor believe that a referral is needed, some alternatives, including programs and/or professionals, will be provided to assist you. You will be responsible for contacting and evaluating those referrals and/or alternatives.

Fees: The fee for each session must be paid at the beginning of each session. Cash, or personal checks made out to “First Baptist Church” are acceptable for payment.

Insurance Reimbursement: At this time, we can only provide you with a receipt of your visit.

Legal Issues (Court): We have no forensic experience and being master’s level counselors would generally not be considered an expert witness. If you become involved in litigation that requires our participation, and due to the complexity and difficulty of legal involvement, we charge \$200 per hour for preparation for and attendance at any legal proceedings. The fee for this service begins from the time we leave the office until we return to the office. Also, a \$1,500 retainer will be required up front if court appearances occur.

Records and Confidentiality: Both law and standard of our profession require that we keep appropriate treatment records. Because these are professional records, they can be misinterpreted and/or upsetting. If you wish to see your records, I recommend that you review them in my presence so that we can discuss the contents. Most often a summary is supplied because handwriting and notes are for my use in treatment and may be difficult to understand clearly. Clients will be charged an appropriate fee for any preparation time required to comply with an information request. All of our communications become part of the clinical records. Records are the property of First Baptist Church. Client records are disposed of five years after the last session. All of our communication is confidential with the following limitations and/or exceptions: a) it is determined you are a danger to yourself or someone else; b) you disclose abuse/neglect/exploitations of a child, elderly, or disabled person; c) you disclose inappropriate behavior by another mental health professional; d) a court orders the disclosure of client information; e) you direct us to release your records to another professional; f) we are otherwise required by law to disclose information.

If your counselor encounters you in public, s/he will maintain your confidentiality by acknowledging you only if you approach first.

By your signature/signatures below, you are indicating that you have read and understand this consent form, and/or that any questions you have about this statement were answered to your satisfaction.

Signatures of Clients (or guardian, if minor)

Date