



Resolute Counseling of Florida, LLC

Consent & Agreement to Biblical Counseling

Goal - To provide biblical/ spiritual counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and that you will find joy in following His will for your life. You do not need to be a Christian to receive biblical counseling, but your counselor will be using biblical principles to guide instruction and counseling.

Biblical Basis - We believe that the Bible provides all needed guidance and instruction for faith and life (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:3). Therefore, our counseling is based upon scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. Our counselors are neither trained nor licensed as a psychotherapist or mental health professional. Nor should we be expected to follow the methods of such professionals.

Not Professional Advice - If you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions you should seek advice from an independent professional. I will cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in light of scriptural principles. Our counselors counsel in their authority as an Elders in Christ's Church and do not offer medical/nursing care in this setting.

Confidentiality - Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process and we will carefully guard the information (in any format) entrusted to us. There are situations, however, in which it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others such as:

1. Assistance--When I am uncertain how to address a particular problem and need to seek advice from a pastor, elder, or biblical counselor. Your identity will be kept confidential, if possible, in these situations. Nothing in this section prohibits disclosure of information pursuant to sections 6 or 7 below.
2. Abuse or Neglect--When there is concern that a child or elderly person may be harmed unless others intervene and/or there is suspicion that abuse, neglect, sexual assault, or a crime may have been committed, this **WILL** be reported to the proper authorities. Our counselors are mandatory reporters under Florida Statue Title V Ch. 39.201 (1)(d) 3.
3. Legal Proceedings—In the course of legal proceedings, if subpoenaed.
4. Law Enforcement—For law enforcement purposes, such as pertaining to victims of a crime or to prevent a crime.
5. Soldiers, Inmates, and National Security—To military supervisors of Armed Forces personnel or to custodians of inmates, as necessary. Preserving national security may also necessitate disclosure of information and/or counseling notes.
6. Church Discipline—When a counselee refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation or to provide information for the discipline process of the church (Proverbs 15:22, 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).
7. Accountability—If you are under the ecclesiastical authority of a Pastor or Elder as a member of their church and they request progress of your counseling or the counselor believes their involvement is needed.
8. Compliance—To the required local and state agencies such as, Polk County Health Department or Department of Children and Families, for purposes of public health, investigations, and/or compliance.

Formal/Informal Relationships—Formal/informal relationships in counseling refers to any situation in which counselors and counsees have another relationship or association in addition to that of counselor-counselee, such as knowing one another from church or in the community. Not all relationships are avoidable or unethical. However, counseling NEVER involves sexual contact or any other



Resolute Counseling of Florida, LLC

relationship that is harmful in nature to the counselee or impairs your counselor's judgment. Your counselor will thoughtfully consider before entering into informal relationships. Polk County is a small community in which many counsees know each other and their counselor. As a result, you may:

- See other persons receiving counseling while waiting to see your counselor
- See your counselor, and or his family, in the community

Please know that your counselor will NEVER acknowledge counseling you without your expressed (written) permission or witnessed verbal consent of two other persons other than counselee and counselor. Many counsees choose their counselors because of knowing him/her before starting counseling and because they are aware of his/her training, background, and faith. This is good and right. Nevertheless, your counselor will discuss with you the complexities (potential difficulties & benefits) that may be involved. Formal/Informal relationships can improve counseling but also have the capability to detract from it. Often it is impossible to know this ahead of time. It is the counselee's responsibility to communicate to your counselor if this becomes uncomfortable for you in any way. Your counselor will always listen carefully and respond accordingly to your feedback and will discontinue the relationship if he/she finds it interfering with your counseling or your wellbeing.

Cost—The cost for a 60-minute counseling session is \$100.00. This may be discounted if your church is willing to offset these fees through counseling grants or support. For those in financial hardship, we do have a sliding scale for the cost. In order to qualify, you would need to furnish us with the counselee's, and/or head of household's, first 2 pages of their most recent tax return or three months of pay stubs. Payment is due at the time of each session. It is also our practice to charge for time required in preparing assessment reports, telephone conversations lasting longer than 10 minutes, consultations, or meetings you have authorized as part of your treatment. These activities are crucial to the counseling process, and we highly value them. We will be pleased to provide you with details of any such costs when they arise.

Late Cancellation/Missed appointments

(PLEASE INITIAL THE FOLLOWING TO INDICATE YOUR AGREEMENT)

_____ As a counseling ministry, we must be a careful steward of its resources, including time. If you cancel without sufficient time, that means others who could receive counseling cannot. Therefore, we require that you give at least 2 business days' notice for cancellations.

_____ If you cancel with less than 2 business days' notice, or are a no show for your session, you will be charged 50% of a full cost visit, which will be due before your next appointment.

_____ Late cancellation charge cannot be reimbursed by your insurance.

_____ If you have a regular appointment slot and you cancel or miss more than twice without sufficient notice, your reserved appointment slot may be given to someone else with a greater counseling need.

Assistance Between Sessions—In emergencies, we cannot guarantee that you will quickly reach your counselor. If you have a medical emergency, please dial 911. If you have an urgent message, call our main number to speak directly with us, or leave a message in our voice mailbox (863-450-3002). Your counselor will contact you as soon as possible or will arrange a session for you as soon as possible.



Resolute Counseling of Florida, LLC

Private Insurance—Currently we do not participate in insurance networks as a provider. Please call your insurance company to verify if they require counselors to be a network provider or licensed mental health provider in Florida. If they do allow reimbursement to spiritual practitioners you will still be required to pay Resolute Counseling of Florida, LLC for your sessions and we will furnish you with a receipt to submit for reimbursement to your insurance.

Resolution of conflicts with the counselor: Arbitration - On rare occasions a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. I Corinthians 6:1-8 forbids Christians from bringing lawsuits against each other in secular courts of law except in certain circumstances. In order to ensure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all our counsees to agree that any dispute which arises with a counselor, counselor affiliated church or church personnel, or counselee affiliated church or church personnel will be settled by mediation, and if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision. It is expressly understood that by agreeing in advance to arbitrate that the counselee is giving up his/her right to a trial in the civil courts.

Clarification—Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please speak with us.

Signature(s) below acknowledges acceptance of the aforementioned consent and agreement

Counselee/ Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name / Parent / or legal Guardian

Counselee/ Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name / Parent / or legal Guardian