



GRACE LIFE COUNSELING INFORMED CONSENT

Our Mission: The mission of Grace Life Counseling Ministries is to equip you to meet the challenges of life by the transforming power of Jesus Christ and the application of biblical Truth (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Biblical Basis: We believe that God, through His revelation in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, has provided His people with guidance and instruction for faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:3-4). Our aim is to come alongside others with a desire to encourage and strengthen their spiritual, emotional, mental, and relational health. Our counseling is based on scriptural principles and conducted under the authority and leadership of Grace Life Baptist Church. Neither the pastoral staff or counselor/lay counselors for individual and group meetings are licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals, nor should they be expected to follow the methods of such specialists. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical or other specific questions beyond the scope of this counseling service, we encourage you to seek the advice from independent professionals. If it is believed that our care is not what is needed for you during this time (i.e., specialized needs or chronic concerns), then we are committed to assisting you with a referral in the surrounding area.

Fees and Resources: We want to bless our community by offering this counseling ministry for minimal financial costs for **up to six sessions** for Grace Life Baptist Church members. Out of respect for our counseling ministry staff and scheduling commitments, we require a \$25.00 payment at the beginning of your counseling sessions. For cancellations, we request that you provide 24-hour notice. Missed appointments or failure to cancel appointments at least 24 hours in advance will result in an expectation to submit another \$25.00 payment before continuing your counseling sessions. If scheduling permits, non-members of Grace Life Baptist Church may access counseling for a fee of \$50.00/session. *Additional fees may apply for resources when relevant.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality is of the utmost importance in the counseling process and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us to the fullest extent possible. However, there are times when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others. As a church ministry, we submit to the governing authorities of both the church and the law. The following are examples of the limits of confidentiality:

- Reports of suicidal or homicidal ideation. When a person is a danger to themselves or others, we will inform others to help keep any harm from being done.
- Reports of abuse against children, elderly, or disabled persons.
- When it is required by law.

- When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and the assistance of others in the church is biblically necessary to encourage repentance and reconciliation (Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20). In such cases, we will reveal only such information as is necessary for such purposes, and only to those biblically required to be involved. Where a counselee is a member of another church, it will be necessary to contact the pastor and/or elder(s).

Resolution of Conflicts: On rare occasions, a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with a counselor or with the church as a result of counseling, will be first addressed in accordance with biblical conflict resolution mandates found in Matthew 18:15-20 with the assistance of the pastoral staff of Grace Life Baptist Church. If unresolved, conflicts may be addressed by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. Judgment upon arbitration award may be entered in any court 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.

Counseling Minors: We believe the primary responsibility for shepherding and discipling children and teenagers rests with their parents. When counseling children and teenagers, the counselor may share information from the counseling sessions with either or both of the custodial parents if the counselor believes it is wise to do so. Consent for counseling of minors must be signed by the at least one parent/legal guardian.

Having clearly stated the principles and policies of the Counseling Ministries of Grace Life Baptist Church, we welcome the opportunity to walk alongside you in biblical encouragement and community. May we honor the Lord as we meet together!

Please acknowledge you have read, understand, and accept the terms listed above. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to ask your counselor or a pastor.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

*Please sign and return this form to Mindy Dickey, PhD at mindyd@yourgracelife.com or to the Counsel Room at Grace Life Baptist Church.