



Informed Consent for Counseling Services

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Pathways Biblical Counseling Center: Informed Consent for Counseling Services

Welcome to Pathways Biblical Counseling Center!

We are honored that you have chosen us to walk with you on your journey toward emotional, relational, and spiritual healing. Our approach to counseling is grounded in biblical principles, offering guidance and support through the truth of God's Word, alongside effective counseling practices.

This pamphlet explains the counseling process and your rights as a client. Please review it carefully. If you have any questions, our team is here to help.

What is Informed Consent?

Informed Consent means that you have been fully informed about the counseling process, your rights as a client, and how we will protect your confidentiality. By signing our Informed Consent Form, you acknowledge that you understand and agree to these terms and conditions.

Our Counseling Approach

At Pathways, we believe that true healing comes from aligning our lives with God's Word. Our counselors integrate sound therapeutic practices with biblical principles to help you find hope, healing, and wholeness.

- **Biblically Based:** Our counseling is grounded in Scripture and seeks to address emotional and relational struggles through a Christ-centered lens.
 - **Client-Centered:** We aim to create a safe and respectful environment where you can express your concerns and work toward personal growth.
 - **Holistic:** We address the emotional, spiritual, relational, and mental aspects of your life to foster overall well-being.
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Your Rights as a Client

1. Confidentiality Your privacy is a top priority. Everything you share with your counselor is confidential. However, there are a few legal exceptions where confidentiality may need to be breached:

- **Imminent Risk of Harm:** If you are in danger of harming yourself or others, we are legally required to report this to the appropriate authorities to protect your safety.

- **Abuse or Neglect:** If we suspect child abuse, elder abuse, or abuse of a vulnerable adult, we are mandated by law to report this to protective services.
- **Court Orders:** In rare cases, a court may order the release of counseling records.

We will discuss these exceptions with you if they arise.

2. Voluntary Participation Your participation in counseling is voluntary. You have the right to discontinue counseling at any time without penalty. However, we encourage you to discuss any concerns with your counselor before making this decision.

3. Access to Your Records You have the right to request access to your counseling records. If you would like to review your records, please make a written request to your counselor, and we will work with you to provide access.

4. Informed Treatment You will be informed about your treatment plan and the goals of your counseling. Together, we will create a plan that aligns with your needs, and you will be encouraged to participate actively in this process.

What to Expect in Counseling

Assessment and Treatment Plan During the first session, your counselor will ask you about your background, current challenges, and goals for counseling. From this information, we will work together to develop a personalized treatment plan to guide your sessions.

Session Structure Counseling sessions typically last between 50-60 minutes. The frequency and duration of sessions will depend on your specific needs and progress, and can be adjusted throughout the counseling process.

Client Responsibilities For counseling to be effective, we encourage you to:

- Be open and honest with your counselor about your concerns.
- Engage actively in the counseling process.
- Follow through with any assignments, such as reading, reflection, or journaling, that your counselor may recommend between sessions.

Fees and Payment

Counseling Fees Our standard fee for counseling services will be explained during the intake process. If you have any concerns about the cost, please let us know. We offer a sliding scale fee based on financial need, as well as limited scholarships for those who qualify.

Payment Terms Payment is due at the time of service, unless other arrangements have been made. We accept cash, checks, and most major credit cards.

Cancellation Policy If you need to cancel an appointment, we ask that you provide at least 24 hours' notice. Failure to cancel within this time frame may result in a cancellation fee.

Telehealth Counseling

We offer **telehealth counseling** (video or phone sessions) for clients who cannot attend in person. These sessions are conducted using secure, HIPAA-compliant platforms. Please ensure that you are in a private, quiet space for telehealth sessions to maintain confidentiality.

Counselor-Client Relationship

Counseling is a professional relationship focused on your healing and growth. While your counselor will provide support, care, and encouragement, this relationship is not a friendship or personal relationship. Boundaries are essential to maintain the integrity of the counseling process.

Termination of Counseling

Counseling can be concluded for several reasons:

- You have met your goals and feel ready to conclude counseling.
- You decide to discontinue counseling voluntarily.
- Your counselor recommends that you seek specialized care or that another counselor may better serve your needs.

We encourage you to discuss any plans to terminate counseling with your counselor so we can ensure a smooth transition or provide appropriate referrals.

Your Consent

By signing the **Informed Consent Form**, you acknowledge that:

- You understand the nature of biblical counseling offered by Pathways Biblical Counseling Center.
- You have been informed of your rights and responsibilities as a client.

- You consent to receive counseling services under the terms outlined in this pamphlet.
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Contact Us

If you have any questions about this pamphlet or your counseling experience, please feel free to contact us:

Pathways Biblical Counseling Center

119 Habitat St.

Americus, GA 31709

(229) 514-0845

info@pathwaysbcc.org

www.pathwaysbcc.org

Thank you for trusting Pathways Biblical Counseling Center. We are here to support you as you seek healing and growth through the guidance of God's Word.