

## **INFORMED CONSENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

By seeking counseling, you have taken an important step in your life. We want to help you deal with the issues that have brought you to us. The Informed Consent Disclosure Statement is intended to help you understand the process of counseling.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT DURING COUNSELING**

Wanting to make changes, both different and better, in your life, and perhaps, that of your family, begins our work together. I will attempt to help you achieve your goals, but the outcome can not be guaranteed to be what you now seek. The work of change depends in part on your sustained commitment, flexibility and courage. You may be strengthened in ways that surprise you. Spirit-led changes or transformations can be exciting growth opportunities.

Change is often accompanied by feelings that can be uncomfortable. As we progress you may experience some anxiety, feelings of sadness and episodes of feeling conflicted about issues in your life. We hope you finish this counseling effort discovering these growth pains have resulted in a refreshing and liberating life. Some of your values and beliefs, the nature of the relationships in which you engage, your career aspirations and your dreams for the future may become fresh and alive.

### **MY COMMITMENT TO CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Code of Ethics of the American Association of Christian Counselors and the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board ensure that the contents of our sessions be held in the strictest confidence. Matters that you share in the context of your counseling sessions will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be disclosed to anyone without your express written consent.

There are certain exceptions to this rule which allow or require confidentiality be broken. These exceptions are:

1. The child abuse reporting laws of Ohio require information of a child under the age of 18 (eighteen) being abused or having been abused be reported to Children's Services. Child abuse includes inappropriate physical punishment of children, sexual molestation, neglect, and abandonment.
2. Child custody hearings in Ohio may request session information.
3. Court decisions hold that I am obligated to warn and to protect intended victims if I have reason to believe that my client is likely to inflict bodily harm on someone, including the client. This means I will violate the confidentiality of our relationship if I feel you are about to hurt yourself or someone else.

4. I will seek consultation with other qualified professionals for additional expertise for the benefit of your treatment. All consultation is done in terms that do not reveal who you are or the specifics of your case; rather focus is on the patterns and problems raised in our sessions.
5. If subpoenaed by a court of law, I am required to appear and/or to report information as requested. I am very reluctant to be placed in this position, as I feel it compromises the goals of our clinical work together; therefore, I will diligently limit information given.
6. While trusting other parties are committed to the same ethics regarding confidentiality, we can not guarantee the confidentiality of information once it has been released to another party at your request.
7. The client has the right to withdraw consent at any time.