

# Consent to Counsel

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Northshore Biblical Counseling and Training Center, 4141 Pontchartrain Drive, Slidell, LA 70458

## Our Goal

Our goal in providing Christian counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life.

## Biblical Basis

We believe the Bible provides guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. Neither the pastoral, nor the lay counselors of this ministry are licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals. We may often have two counselors together for the purpose of both training new counselors and having additional wisdom.

## Professional Advice

In the process of biblical counseling there are often times when there is a need for significant advice with regards to legal, medical, financial or other technical areas. In those cases, you will be encouraged to seek independent professional counsel. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principles.

## Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are five situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others.

- 1) When a pastor or lay counselor is uncertain how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor or counselor;
- 2) When a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders;
- 3) When there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene;
- 4) If in the course of counseling, the pastor or counselor suspects that a minor child (or an elderly person) has been abused, he will then consult with another counselor who will assist in the assessment of the situation. If abuse is suspected that is legally required to be reported, legal authorities will be contacted. If the child (or elderly person) is in imminent danger of being abused, the appropriate legal authorities will be called without employing the above consultation process; (Romans 13:1-4) or
- 5) When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Matthew 18:15-20; Proverbs 15:22; 24:11). Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

## Consent Signature

Having clarified the principles and policies of our pastoral/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. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with the counselor.

If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_