



Safe Haven Counseling Associates

4879 Luster Leaf Circle, #301
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Loving God and Loving People

Counseling Agreement

Thank you for your interest in biblical, Christ-centered counseling. The goal of this counseling ministry is to help you meet the challenges and problems of your life in a way that will please and honor the triune, creator God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and allow you to fully appreciate and enjoy His love for you and follow His plans for your life. Our counselors look forward to helping you find God's help and hope for the problems or conflicts you are facing. The following information will help you further understand this ministry and will serve as an agreement between us.

Phone: (843) 602-3171 or (843) 602-4380

Email: hello@safehavencounseling.me

Website: safehavencounseling.me

I. General Comment:

Our counselors are not attorneys or medical doctors. Our training as biblical counselors is psychologically informed, but what is offered is Christ-centered, biblically based counseling, not legal or medical counseling. We will help you find and implement God's answers from His Word, according to our understanding of God's Word, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayer and the input of our experience, training and education.

II. Making the Process Most Effective: To increase the effectiveness of the counseling, we ask the following:

1. *Be committed to biblical counseling as described on this sheet and any other accompanying materials given or assigned.* Come to each session with a humble spirit, seeking to learn how God wants you to handle your problems.
2. *Attend each scheduled session.*
 - If you need to reschedule, please contact us at 843.602.3171 or 843.602.4380 at least 24 hours in advance. A \$15 cancellation fee will be required if the 24 hour advance notice is not observed. Please call immediately if you have an emergency.
 - Allow 50-60 minutes for most sessions (90 minutes for the first session). Apart from prior agreement, telephone /text counseling is not included as part of the counseling process as communication in person is more holistic in nature.
3. *Be as open and honest as you can.* Talking about personal problems can be difficult. Accept God's grace in this process and allow trust in God and the counseling relationship to grow.

4. *Be patient.* Problems do not develop in a day. Neither will problems be solved in a day. A counselor needs time to understand your particular and unique situation. Please allow the necessary time for the counselor to carefully listen and gather data, pray and help you find, understand and apply God's plan for your life.

5. *In between sessions, complete the growth assignments given, and review and pray over the matters discussed during previous sessions.* You will be given helpful assignments that fit mutually agreed upon counseling goals.

6. *Choose a healthy church that preaches the Word of God truthfully and humbly. Attend weekly and involve yourself in small group discipleship and mission.* Regular participation in a Christ-centered, biblical church provides you with four vital complements to biblical counseling:

- God-centered worship.
- Solid Bible teaching with practical life application.
- Pastoral care.
- Meaningful fellowship with people who need, and are learning, how to live in God's unending love and grace.

III. Confidentiality, Legal Concerns and Arbitration:

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process. We will carefully guard the information entrusted to us.

At the same time, you must realize that this confidentiality is only within the limits of biblical and civil law. We cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality in every situation. For example:

- To ensure that you are receiving consistent counsel and support, your situation may be discussed with a supervisor, leaving out your name or any other information that might identify you;
- In some cases, your situation may be discussed with your attorney, if you have one.
- Information may need to be divulged to appropriate civil authorities if there is a clear indication that you or someone else might otherwise be harmed.
- In counseling minor children, we may need to divulge information to parents or legal guardians.

Legal Concerns:

- Where your situation might involve legal issues, you must agree to treat all dealings with Safe Haven in regard to this dispute as settlement negotiations, which means they will be inadmissible in a court of law or for legal discovery.
- You must agree that you will not try to force Safe Haven to divulge any information acquired during counseling or force Safe Haven to testify in any legal proceeding related to this dispute.

Arbitration:

- In the unlikely event of a conflict between you and Safe Haven all parties must seek to resolve it in a biblical manner, through discussion, and, if necessary, through mediation and arbitration, according to the Institute for Christian Conciliation's Rules of Procedure.
- For further details about confidentiality and counseling/conciliation procedures, please read the *Guidelines for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, available in booklet form from Peacemaker Ministries (800.711.7118) or posted on their website www.peacemaker.net.

IV. Fees:

Safe Haven Counseling Associates, Inc. is a religious non-profit 501(c)3 registered in the state of South Carolina whose vision is to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who don't know that God is the answer to all life's problems. Safe Haven endeavors to serve the Horry County community, reaching as many people in need as possible. All services are offered (pro-bono) for free. If they desire to do so, counselees may donate to the vision and mission of Safe Haven.

A \$15 cancellation fee will be charged for appointments missed without 24 hours advance notice to the counselor by phone. Texts and emails are not acceptable forms of notice because of possible time-related delivery failures and inconsistencies.

* * * * *

Agreement for Counselees: Having clearly stated the principles and policies of this 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 kingdom. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please ask. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below and bring it to your first appointment.

I have read and understand the above guidelines and find them acceptable.

Last Revision 7-30-22

Name _____ *Signed* _____ *Date* _____

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ by helping you find and implement His answers to your problems. May God encourage, bless and empower you in these coming days!