

- (1) Counseling provided through Central Baptist Church is based on the Bible rather than contemporary psychology and should be considered spiritual guidance; it is designed to focus on spiritual issues and offer spiritual solutions.
- (2) Unless Church personnel explicitly claim to have received the appropriate psychological licensing and training, it should be assumed that they are **NOT** Licensed Professional Counselors, psychiatrists, therapists, or social workers, as defined by State law. Instead, their training is in Biblical and theological matters.
- (3) Some needs—including medical and mental health issues—may lie outside the training and skills possessed by Church personnel. Therefore, they reserve the right to refer counselees to appropriate specialists.
- (4) Church personnel will not counsel persons of the opposite sex or minors alone in areas without visibility to adjacent areas. Any counseling involving the opposite sex or minors must have a third person (an adult) present and/or be visible from an adjacent, accessible area. Church personnel will not counsel off-site without a third person present.
- (5) Church personnel may counsel in teams at their discretion, with more than one staff member or volunteer sitting in on a session.
- (6) Church personnel will endeavor to keep counseling issues confidential. However, this confidentiality does **NOT** preclude consulting with other Church personnel, as needed, to provide the counselee with proper guidance. Disclosure is also required by law if Church personnel have reason to believe that a child or vulnerable adult is being or has been abused or neglected. Furthermore, disclosures will be made to the extent allowed by law if Church personnel have reason to believe that domestic abuse exists, a counselee is otherwise in danger, or the counselee is a danger to him/herself or others. Finally, other disclosures may be made as required by law or court order.
- (7) Counseling between the same counselor and counselee(s) shall be limited to no more than three (3) sessions per six (6) month period unless agreed to in writing by both the Senior Pastor and Chairman of Deacons.
- (8) Counselees agree to indemnify and hold harmless Central Baptist Church, its members, staff, ministry leaders, volunteers, agents, and insurers from any claims arising from any counseling provided by Central Baptist Church and/or Church personnel.

I have read and understood the policies above and agree to abide by the terms set forth therein.

Counselee's signature

Date

Counselee's printed name