

## ANTIOCH COUNSELING CENTER

### Informed Consent

*Counseling is a cooperative venture with responsibility resting on both the counselor and the client. In order to enable you and your counselor to work most effectively together, we ask that you carefully read the information below. If you have any questions, your counselor will be happy to discuss them with you.*

The Antioch Counseling Center is a service of Antioch Baptist Church. The Center exists to provide counseling from a Christian perspective for individuals, couples, families, and groups. The Center's services are available to residents of the community regardless of religious affiliation, including those with no religious affiliation. The counselor is an unlicensed masters-level clinician working under supervision, and is under the supervision of Dr. H. Hugh Floyd.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) has created new patient protections surrounding the use of protected health information. Commonly referred to as the "medical records privacy law," HIPAA provides patient protections related to the electronic transmission of data, the keeping and use of patient records, and storage and access to health care records. An explanation of those rights is attached to your Client Information sheet.

Communications between the client and counselor are confidential and will not be revealed unless required by law, such as in situations of child abuse, threats of physical harm to self or others, or subpoena of a court. As an unlicensed clinician, communications with your counselor are not protected by privilege which means they may be subject to subpoena by the courts should litigation be brought against you. If you believe that you may need the testimony of a counselor in a court of law, a licensed mental health professional would be an appropriate choice. Your counselor will be obtaining regular supervision from Dr. H. Hugh Floyd, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist approved as a supervisor by both the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. It will be necessary for your counselor to discuss your case with his supervisor. Your counselor will be able to provide you with more details regarding this matter.

Your counselor will be discreet if it is necessary to contact you at home or at work.

As part of the ministry of Antioch Baptist Church, your counselor serves as a representative of the church. Accordingly, in the event that a mandated report of suspected child or elder or disabled abuse or threat to harm another person is filed with legal authorities by your counselor in regard to you or a member of your family, the senior pastor and/or the associate pastor of Antioch Baptist Church will be notified of that action.

#### **AUDIO AND/OR AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDING OF SESSIONS:**

To fulfill the requirements set forth for Marriage & Family Therapy Associates working toward licensure within the State of Alabama, your sessions with your counselor may be recorded in either audio and/or audio-visual form. These recordings will be used only for supervision purposes when your counselor meets with his supervisor. Every reasonable effort will be made to protect your privacy.

#### **COUNSELING FEES:**

The normal fee for a 50-minute session is \$75. We ask that your account be kept current and that payment be made by check or cash prior to each session. Should the fee not be paid for two sessions, no further sessions will be scheduled until the balance is paid. Please make checks payable to Antioch Baptist Church. The church receives no benefit from this payment, and it is not considered a tithe or offering for tax purposes.

#### **INSURANCE:**

We regret that insurance does not cover counseling received at the Antioch Counseling Center.

#### **CANCELLATION OF APPOINTMENTS:**

If you must cancel your appointment, please call the Antioch Counseling Center at (256) 831-5313 extension 109 and leave a message on your counselor's voicemail at least 24 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment. A charge of one-half (1/2) of the regular fee will be made for the time reserved when cancellations are

received less than 24 hours in advance, except in the case of illness or other emergency. Your cooperation in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

**TELEPHONE CALLS:**

Should you need to contact your counselor, you may contact him at our office at (256) 831-5313 ext. 109; if he is unavailable, leave a message on his voicemail at the same number, (256) 831-5313 ext 109. Our answering system will receive your call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and your counselor's voice mail is confidential. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. However, please be aware that calls may not be returned immediately because your counselor will check voicemails only routinely.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:**

If you have an emergency, you will need to immediately contact either the police by dialing 911 or go to your nearest hospital emergency room or, depending on the situation.

**I have read the above information and voluntarily request counseling services at the Antioch Counseling Center, and I agree with these terms and conditions.\***

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

Counselor: Grant Nichols, MAMFT, Marriage & Family Therapy Associate                      Voice Mail #(256) 831-5313 x109  
Under the Supervision of Dr. H. Hugh Floyd, Ph.D., LMFT, AAMFT-Approved Supervisor, ABEMFT-Approved Supervisor

*\*The signature of the custodial parent or guardian is required for clients under 18 years of age.*