

CONSENT FORM AND AGREEMENT

Biblical Counseling Ministries of HBCTC



It is our goal to help you toward Christlikeness during this time in your life.

Consent to Biblical Counseling & Authorization to Request/Release Information

Our Mission – Transforming lives by the Word of God, in the Spirit of God, and through the Community of God. We seek for the Biblical Counseling you will receive to be Christ-centered (Col 1:15-20), biblically based with truth and grace (John 1:14), Spirit-led (John 6:63), prayer saturated (Col. 4:2), and community oriented (Heb. 10:24-25). We desire 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 that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for a life that is pleasing to God. Therefore, our biblical counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. Although some of the pastoral or lay counseling associates of Harvest Bible Chapel Traverse City (HBCTC) may be trained or licensed in other fields, such as medicine or psychology, they will not practice in that capacity but only as biblical disciple makers under the authority of the elders of HBCTC.

Not Professional Advice – If you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional. Our ministry staff and lay disciple makers will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principles. We are often asked about insurance as well. As we do not practice as licensed professionals, we do not make diagnoses, nor do we submit insurance claims. There is no charge for biblical counseling, so there is no need to be reimbursed or cover a charge.

Resolution of Conflicts – On rare occasions, a conflict may develop between a HBCTC biblical counselor and the party receiving care. In order to make sure that any such conflicts are resolved in a biblical manner, we require all those receiving care to agree that any dispute that arises with a HBCTC biblical counselor or with HBCTC staff as a result of biblical counseling will be settled by mediation under the leadership of HBCTC. We will make every effort to resolve conflict in a manner consistent with God's Word.

Communication and Community – At HBCTC we desire to grow in caring for those in our flock and community. It is imperative to our mission and your long-term care that we stay in consistent and regular communication with the leadership of HBCTC (small group, coaches and pastoral staff) and/or the person you have designated/chosen as your advocate. This form gives us permission to discuss the necessary information in regard to your situation with the appropriate and concerned parties in accordance with the confidentiality guidelines explained below. Please read the following information carefully.

I/we desire to receive counseling and ministry from Harvest Bible Chapel Traverse City (HBCTC). I/we make the following acknowledgements and agreements and give the following consents:

1. The counseling will be by a counselor who is trained in biblical counseling who may or may not have other certifications or degrees.
2. A basic principle of biblical counseling is that the Bible is sufficient to understand how to live a God-pleasing life.
3. The counseling I/we will receive will be based upon scriptural principles rather than principles of psychology or psychiatry.
4. The counseling I/we will receive will be based on the conclusions that the Bible is inerrant and authoritative, and contains God's answers to the issues of life, conduct, and relationships.

5. The counseling I/we will receive will reflect the counselor's understanding of the Bible and how the principles of Scripture apply to the problems, questions, or issues involved.
6. As a part of HBCTC's desire to train up new counselors and provide the most effective counsel, advocates and/or apprentices may be asked to participate in the biblical counseling process. They will abide by the confidentiality statement articulated in #8 below.
7. If a dispute arises concerning the counseling of HBCTC, or between a counselee and the counselor involved, or with Harvest Bible Chapel Traverse City ("the dispute"), there shall be no lawsuit initiated and the claim cannot be filed in any state or federal civil court. Instead, the dispute must be resolved as follows:

The parties hereby exercise their election, to submit any disputes or claims to Christian resolution (see resolution of conflicts above), making every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8).

8. Counseling at HBCTC, including statements made during counseling, shall remain confidential, with the following qualifications and exceptions:
 - (a) Counselors shall be free to discuss counseling sessions and cases with other HBCTC counselors and pastors in order to gain the benefit of additional insight and input;
 - (b) Counselors and pastors shall be entitled to seek a confidential legal opinion or advice from an attorney when it is deemed appropriate and helpful;
 - (c) If any HBCTC policy concerning the reporting of child abuse or child neglect, or the reporting of elder abuse or elder neglect, mandates a report to Child Protective Services or other authorities in compliance with the laws of the State of Michigan, then such report will be made;
 - (d) If a suicide risk is indicated, the counselors or pastors may seek necessary help and make whatever reports or disclosures as they deem to be proper and necessary;
 - (e) If a counselee indicates an intention to commit a crime, such intention may be reported and disclosed to the proper authorities;
 - (f) If the counselee is a member of a local church other than HBCTC, and if the pastors or counselors of HBCTC deem it necessary or helpful to communicate information or facts to the pastor of the counselee's local church, they may do so.

I/WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE PROVISIONS, I/WE UNDERSTAND THEM, AND I/WE HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE TERMS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WAIVER OF SEEKING REDRESS (LAWSUIT) IN THE CIVIL COURT SYSTEMS, AND AGREEING THAT ANY AND ALL DISPUTES BE RESOLVED THROUGH CHRISTIAN RESOLUTION AS DETAILED ABOVE.

_____	(1) Counselee Signature
_____	(1) Counselee Printed Name
_____	(2) Counselee Signature
_____	(2) Counselee Printed Name
_____	(3) Counselee Signature
_____	(3) Counselee Printed Name

Harvest Bible Chapel Traverse City

By: _____ Signature
 _____ Printed Name
 _____ Title/Position