

# **TRANSFORM COUNSELING**

## ***Pastoral Counseling Services Agreement***

**This agreement for Individual Counseling Services between TRANSFORM COUNSELING and \_\_\_\_\_ shall govern all professional relations between parties.**

A. **THE PASTORAL COUNSELOR is Rev. Carl A. Nicklas, MA, MAR.** He is an Ordained Minister, a Board Certified Christian Counselor, and a Certified Temperament Counselor who is providing biblical and psychological intervention services.

B. **PASTORAL COUNSELING AT TRANSFORM COUNSELING** is confidential, Bible-based counseling by one trained and experienced in both pastoral and counseling ministry. Pastoral counseling will be limited to a maximum of 26 sessions overall with an evaluation at the end of this program of counseling. Counseling may conclude or continue or referral for other treatment may be made at that time. The decision will be whatever is in the client's best interest.

### **C. FEES AND INSURANCE POLICY**

Client fees are to be determined at the first session. The actual fee arrangement is explained in section G. Full payment shall be made by the client at the end of each session. Clients understand that a Pastoral Counselor will not be able to receive insurance reimbursement under most policies---clients are responsible to bill their own insurance if they believe a Pastoral Counselor is covered. *Clients are fully responsible for the payment of all fees.*

### **D. CANCELLATION POLICY**

We agree to and ask that clients maintain responsible relations regarding appointment times. Any appointment cancelled after 6 PM the day before the appointment or that the client does not show will be charged to the client at (1) half the full rate for the first incident and (2) the full rate for any incidents thereafter.

### **E. CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

All therapeutic communications, records, and contact with professional and support staff will be held in strict confidence. Information may be released, in accordance with state law, only when (1) the client signs a written release of information indicating informed consent to such release; (2) the client expresses serious intent to harm himself/herself or someone else; (3) there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elder person (sixty-five years or older), or dependent adult; or (4) a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information. It is our policy to assert either (a) privileged communication in the event of #4 or (b) the right to consult with clients, if at all possible barring an emergency, before mandated disclosure in the event of #2 or #3. Although we cannot guarantee it, we will endeavor to apprise clients of all mandated disclosures. Clients with any concerns or questions about this policy agree to raise them with their counselor at the earliest possible time to resolve them in the client's best interest.

F. **WORK AGREEMENT**

It is agreed that the client shall make a good-faith effort at change and personal growth, and engage in the counseling process as an important priority at this time in his or her life. Client gain is most important in pastoral counseling. Suspension, termination, or referral shall be discussed between counselor and client for a pattern of behavior that reveals disinterest or lack of commitment to counseling or for any unresolved conflict or impasse between counselor and client.

G. **FEE AGREEMENT**

**TRANSFORM COUNSELING does not charge set fees. We operate on a faith basis. We ask for the client to prayerfully consider how much he/she believes that he/she should give as payment for services rendered. Please consider that part of the healing process is giving back and making a sacrifice. At the beginning of the first therapy session the client will be asked how much he/she is committed to pay for each session. Payment of the committed amount is expected at the end of each session. Modification of the committed amount shall be by mutual agreement of both the client and counselor.**

H. **MODIFICATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

It is agreed that any disputes or modifications of agreement shall be negotiated directly between the parties. If these negotiations are not satisfactory, then the parties agree to mediate any differences with a mutual acceptable third-party mediator. If these are unsatisfactory, then the parties shall move to arbitration, and then binding arbitration, choosing an arbitrator mutually agreeable to both. Litigation is not acceptable between Christians, and will only be considered if these methods of dispute resolution are given a good faith effort and are found unsatisfactory.

**Service Agreement**

We, the undersigned pastoral counselor and client, have read, discussed together and fully understand this agreement and the stated policies. We agree to honor these policies, including the commitment to negotiate and mediate as stated above, and will respect one another's views and differences in their outworking. We have also agreed to an initial definition of counseling work and to the fee to be paid by the client.

Client signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_