



## Counseling Agreement West End Counseling Center

The Counseling Ministry of West End Counseling Center is available to help with counseling cases from churches and faith-based organizations throughout the Upstate. You may apply for counseling help by phoning 864.232.7312

The following conditions apply to all counseling cases:

1. The Counseling Center provides biblical counseling in which the Scriptures are in all cases the final authority. All counseling will be conducted in accordance with the counselor's understanding of the Scriptures. If you are not sure that you will be interested in biblically-based counseling, you will be given the option of attending one or two sessions to discover what biblical counseling is like. If you are unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority in counseling, your sessions will be terminated.
2. If you are a member of a church, as some time during counseling it will be necessary for you to notify your pastor that you are receiving counsel. At the close of your counseling sessions, your counselor will notify your pastor of the results of your counseling. This is important since we want to recognize and respect the authority and discipline of other congregations. This makes the transfer back to the pastoral care of your church much easier to effect. In addition, we encourage you to invite your pastor or an elder to accompany you to counseling sessions.
3. Homework assignments will be given to help the Counselee to implement the biblical principles taught in the counseling session; completing the homework assignments is an essential key to progress.
4. In order to provide training for students, counselor trainees may be present in counseling sessions.
5. At any time during the counseling, the Counselor—as well as the Counselee—shall have the option of terminating counseling.
6. Our Counselors will not give legal or medical advice. Our Counselors are not licensed by the state of SC to provide professional counseling, psychological treatment, or psychological diagnosis.
7. Information disclosed in counseling sessions will be held confidential insofar as the Counselor believes the Bible allows. Absolute confidentiality is not scriptural; matters of church discipline (Cf. Matthew 18:15ff), for instance, under certain circumstances, require one to disclose facts to others. West End Counseling will follow the state of South Carolina statues regarding reporting.

8. The Counselors at the Counseling Center strive to make services affordable and available for everyone. While no one will be denied services from the Counseling Center due to lack of financial resources, a minimal fee will be charged in order to cover the costs of materials and any expenses that the Counseling Center and Counselors may incur. The minimal fee for counseling is based on the following sliding scale:

<u>Family Weekly Gross Income</u>	<u>Fee</u>
\$650 and over	\$40 per counseling hour
\$450 to \$649	\$35 per counseling hour
\$250 to \$449	\$30 per counseling hour
Below \$250	\$25 per counseling hour

Note: In hardship situations, these fees can be waived for any counselee at the discretion of the counselor or a director of the Counseling Center.

9. It should be understood that biblical counseling consists of the giving of Scriptural advice and the practical application of this advice to each Counselee. Yet the Counselee is held fully responsible for how he implements that advice. We are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). There are no problems in life or between persons that the Bible fails to address either in general or specific principles. While our counselors do not pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its application to life, nevertheless, they do know much and will do their utmost to help you.

**If you are interested in counseling, kindly sign below as indicated.**

I have read the conditions for counseling set forth in this document and agree to enter into counseling in accordance with them. I understand all of the foregoing terms and conditions, and I and my family and all other interested parties release and hold harmless Covenant Counseling Center, West End Counseling Center, and its Counselors and staff from any and all claims or suits whatsoever.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_