

Informed Consent Form

Federal and state law requires that you understand the counseling philosophy and practice of behavioral health facilities and your rights as clients or the caretakers of clients. While we are not required to do so, it is our concern for your well being that prompts us to require that you read this information carefully and initial or sign where indicated. Please feel free to ask questions should there be anything you do not fully understand. A full copy of this Informed Consent Form will be furnished for your records.

Initial here if you have read and understood this section. _____

Clinical Background and Philosophy

marriagePlus offers advanced "pastoral counseling." Pastoral counseling is defined as a counseling therapy that is based in fundamental conservative Christian belief, practice, and of a pastoral nature. We are not psychiatrists or psychologists. We are counseling pastors who apply practical Christianity to everyday living situations.

Judith Heckenlaible-Habig PhD is the principle counselor obtaining a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Christian Counseling. In marital situations, she teams with her husband Ron Habig who has been pastorally counseling for over 40 years. They are certified by: National Christian Counselor Association, the American Association of Christian Counselors, and the International Institute of Faith Based Counselors. Board Certifications include; Crisis and Abuse Therapy, Substance Abuse and Addiction Therapy, Integrated Marriage and Family Therapy, Critical Incident Stress Management Group Crisis Intervention, and School Crisis Response Training. Bios are obtained online at www.DrJudith.Info.

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Online and Telephonic Counseling

Counselors are available online or telephonically to help talk a client through a "rough spot" although these conversations are necessarily brief. Occasionally, client circumstances are such that coming into the office is not feasible. When that is the case, online and/or telephone sessions can be scheduled. Online and telephone rates are specified on the fee schedule page.

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Confidentiality

Information will not be shared with anyone pertaining to clients or information shared by clients by this ministry, however, on occasion, for purposes of consultation, counselors within marriagePlus may confer with one another. The exception is that Arizona law requires counselors to report to the proper authorities:

1. Where we suspect that a child, or other person, has been physically abused, neglected, and/or sexually abused.
2. In emergency situations where there may be danger to the clients or others as with homicide or suicide situations.
3. If a court of law issues a legitimate subpoena for your records.
4. You provide written consent to release information about you and/or your family members.
5. In the case of a child, non-custodial parents or other may have the right to information according to court orders.

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The Need for Children and Adolescents for Confidentiality

In order to ensure that a child or an adolescent client is receiving the best possible treatment, the parents and therapist must work together. In order to accomplish this, the youth needs to begin to trust the counselor, and have the confidence that anything discussed during a session will not be revealed to their parents. If a situation escalates into something potentially harmful or life threatening, the counselor therapist will notify parents and other authorities as required by law.

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Records

HIPPA, state law, and standards of the mental health profession require that treatment records are kept in an organized, well documented file. These records include all aspects of individually identifiable information that we have obtained from you or others participating in your care. The records reflect face-to-face encounters, telephone contacts, clinical impressions and interventions as they relate to your past, present or future. They are kept in a locked cabinet. You have the right to inspect and copy the information contained in your file unless your therapist believes it reasonably likely to cause substantial emotional, physical, or spiritual harm to you or others, in which case you have a right to appeal.

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Fees

marriagePlus Ministries, Inc. is an Arizona Not For Profit Corporation. marriagePlus is not subsidized financially or in any other way by referring churches or organizations. Because this is our ministry, a discounted fee structure is in place that is 50% or more less than area professional counselors. In actuality, each client sets his or her own fee using the sliding scale as provided. To continue to provide quality services, we must charge for counseling services in session, online counseling, telephone conversations lasting longer than 10 minutes, letter or report writing, preparation of records and treatment summaries, attending meetings/consultations, as authorized by you. We will provide you with a schedule of fees separately from this document.

Initial here if you have read and understood this section. _____

On Time Responsibilities

You are responsible for coming to your session on time and at the time we have scheduled. Sessions are scheduled to last 50 minutes with 10 minutes between sessions for record keeping and preparation. If you are late, we may have to end on time in order to not run over into the next person's session.

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Length of Counseling Therapy

You will normally be the one who decides the length of the counseling therapy. However, in most cases, we will agree on a certain number of initial sessions during your intake session to efficiently facilitate your reason for counsel. Missed sessions are always regarded as a set-back for the client regardless of the reason and requires two session to make up for the one missed. Unilaterally, clients have "homework" assignments to complete between regular sessions that must be accomplished for therapy to be effective, therefore, clients are ultimately responsible for their own recovery. If we are not able to help you, because of the kind of problem you are

experiencing, or because our training and skills are, in our judgment not appropriate, we will inform you of this fact and refer you to another counselor who may better meet your needs.

Initial here if you have read and understood this section. _____

Release

FOR, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF the receipt of information and counseling services provided by marriagePlus Ministries, the undersigned being legally competent and fully authorized and empowered to do so, does hereby RELEASE, ACQUIT, AND FOREVER DISCHARGE marriagePlus Ministries, RONALD HABIG, JUDITH HECKENLAIBLE-HABIG, CITY OF GRACE, ANY AND ALL REFERRING CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES, AND ALL PARTICIPATING COUNSELORS CONNECTED WITH THE SAID MINISTRY, from any and all actions, courses of actions, claims, demands, injuries, damages, costs loss of service, expenses and compensation, on account of any and all known and unknown personal injuries, mental anguish or agitation, and damage claim to person or property resulting from or arising out of or related to counseling services and ministerial services provided by marriagePlus Ministries, and their agents, representatives and/or employees in any way affecting the undersigned parties.

Print your full name

Signature Date

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