



CONSENT TO COUNSEL A MINOR CHILD

I have been informed that the counseling care that my child _____ will be receiving from the Biblical
Name of Child

Counseling ministry at Harvest Bible Chapel [HBC] is Christian and biblical in nature. I have also been informed that

_____ is a trained biblical counselor in the Biblical Counseling ministry. I further understand that
Name of Counselor

said counselor serves under the supervision of Biblical Counseling staff and with the endorsement of the elders at HBC.

I understand that he/she is not trained, licensed, or authorized to provide professional counseling, psychological treatment or psychological diagnosis. I understand that if and when I desire professional counseling for my minor child, I may seek assistance outside the ministry of Biblical Counseling at Harvest. I give my consent to the above counselor and Biblical Counseling staff to discuss any and all of the information that my child shares in his/her meetings with the above counselor with those who would assist in the care process as outlined in the confidentiality agreement below.

As part of our mission to train and equip others for counseling, we may have counselors-in-training participate in the counseling with us, this is a wonderful opportunity to be able to help someone else. The counselors-in-training are bound by the confidentiality guidelines the same as the counselor. If that makes you uncomfortable, let us know below. Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ. We desire to be used by God as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

I am okay with utilizing a counselor-in-training for my child: [circle one] Yes No

Name of Child

Age of Child

Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

This policy exists to provide guidelines for how and when the Biblical Counselor shares detailed, personal information provided by counselees about their life situation.

We seek for all communication between counselee, pastor, and/or Biblical Counselor to be held in strict confidence, unless the counselee, or a parent in the case of a minor, gives authorization to release this information. As policy, counselors are strongly persuaded not to disclose personal information to others. Counselors will make every effort to help counselees to resolve problems as privately and confidential as possible.

External Communication

In order to protect counselee, counselor, the church and others who may be affected by a particular counseling situation, we seek to abide by the following exceptions to this confidentiality policy:

- If a person expresses intent to harm themselves or someone else a counselor may alert the authorities as deemed necessary at the time.
- If there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elderly person, or dependent adult a counselor may alert the authorities as deemed necessary at the time.
- If a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information, the Biblical Counselor or Harvest Bible Chapel staff will work with the authorities in order to comply with the law.

Internal Communication

Internal communication of detailed, sensitive, personal information shared by the counselee is only for the purpose of helping the counselee in their situation.

We believe that the concept of total confidentiality is not biblical. However, information regarding a counselee and their situation will be handled with the highest possible level of discretion. Carefully discerning how to share information is an important aspect of the Biblical Counseling relationship and we will carefully guard any information entrusted to us.

When it is deemed necessary, a counselor may:

- Discuss case with Biblical Counseling Pastor staff, elders of HBC, the advocates, as well as with previous counselors or other lay leaders currently involved in the care process. These discussions will be conducted for the sole purpose of gaining information for the counselee's care or to help in follow-up and aftercare. Only the most pertinent information will be shared on a "need to know" basis.
- Seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance, restoration, and reconciliation [see Proverbs 15:22, 24:11, Matthew 18:15-20 and HBC's church discipline policy] due to a person's persistent refusal to renounce a particular sin [habitual unrepentant rebellion against the Word of God].