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**Consent to Counseling Agreement**

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| **The Scope and Nature of Redeemer Bible Church (RBC) Biblical Counseling Ministry:**  The RBC Counseling Ministry is an extension of the church’s commitment to help people lead effective and fruitful lives (2 Peter 1:8). Our counselors are committed to coming alongside struggling people to help them bear their burdens and experience the fullness of God’s grace.  We believe that the Bible provides thorough and true guidance to enable people to deal with life’s problems. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology. The counselors of this church are trained and certified in biblical counseling methodology. They are not state licensed psychotherapists or mental health professionals, and should not be expected to follow their methods. All of the counseling provided by Redeemer Bible Church is “pastoral” in nature.    **RBC Counselors:** The RBC Counseling Ministry is under the oversight of one of the elders. The Biblical Counseling Director counsels, leads the biblical counselors and administers the overall ministry. Information about each counselor is available on our website. The Director can provide assistance in determining who may best meet your particular need.  ***Confidentiality:*** Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. Possible circumstances for the limited sharing of confidential information include:   1. Biblical counseling is a team-centered approach. On occasion other RBC Counselors, church staff, or church leadership may receive “as needed” information to coordinate your care. 2. When there is a clear indication that someone may harm themselves or others. 3. When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (Cf. Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).   At any time, upon your request, the counselor will furnish to the counselee the names and circumstances of any additional person with whom your confidential information was shared. Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible. |
| **Financial Support:** The cost of the RBC Counseling Ministry is largely subsidized by Redeemer Bible Church. Our aim is to help and disciple people; however, while not mandatory, financial participation by the counselee is encouraged. The recommended donation is $40 per session. Sessions can run from 40 to 90 minutes. The recommended donation per session remains the same regardless of the duration of the session. Please make checks payable to Redeemer Bible Church and annotate on the front of the check that the funds are for the RBC Biblical Counseling Ministry.  **Counseling of minor children:** If counseling involves the participation of your minor child (ages 5-17) with the RBC Counselor, your signature below certifies that you are the child’s parent or legal guardian and that you give your consent to have them counseled according to this agreement.    **Resolution of Conflicts**: On rare occasions a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with a counselor or with Redeemer Bible Church as a result of counseling will be settled by mediation and according to Biblical principles outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.  **Cancelling Appointments**  Please contact your counselor when canceling appointments. We ask that you give 24-hour notice, but we also know there are times when this is not possible. In the event that you have scheduled an appointment but have not notified your counselor of your need to cancel, he/she reserves the right not to reschedule you for any future appointments.  **Wellness Policy**  If you or someone in your household is experiencing symptoms of illness (fever, cold, cough, etc.) or has been exposed to Covid-19, please let us know and we will switch to telehealth or reschedule.  **Agreement:** By signing this consent, you agree that you understand the scope and nature of Redeemer Bible Church Biblical Counseling Ministry. You also agree that you will not attempt to subpoena or require any counselor to appear in any legal proceeding related to any matters discussed during counseling; nor will you attempt to subpoena any notes or records related to this counseling. Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with your counselor or his or her supervisor. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.  Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |