

# St. John Missionary Baptist Church

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## Informed Consent to Biblical Counseling Form

### Our Goal

Our goal in providing biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life. Biblical Basis - We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. (II Peter 1:3 and Romans 15:4) Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry.

### Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are four situations when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others:

1. When the counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor or elder in this church;
2. When a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders;
3. When there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless we otherwise intervene;
4. When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).

Please be assured we strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

BY LAW, there are certain situations in which information about individuals undergoing counseling may be released with or without their permission. These situations are as follows (Romans 13:1-3):

1. Where it is proven that children are physically abused or neglected.
2. In emergency situations where there may be proven danger to the counselee or others, as with homicide or suicide.
3. If a court of law issues a legitimate subpoena relating to a child abuse case, we are required by law to provide information specific to that subpoena.
4. If an unreported life-threatening felony has been committed, the law requires a reporting.

At any time during the counseling the counselor, as also the counselee, shall have the option of terminating counseling.

## Resolution of Conflicts

On rare occasions a conflict may arise between counselor and 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 the counselor or with this church as a result of counseling will be settled with mediation within the church according to the principles of scripture and the authority of this local church. 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 these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_