

# Confidentiality/Disclosure Form



**Our Heart:** Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the personal and private information you entrust to us as much as possible. Our intent is to not even disclose that a couple is being seen by our counselors. We recognize the crucial importance of mutual trust within the counseling relationship. As a general rule, what we discuss stays between us.

**Our Duty:** At the same time, in light of biblical and civil law, we cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality in every situation. There are times when it might be necessary to disclose otherwise confidential information to appropriate other people. Some examples might include:

- To ensure that you are receiving consistent counsel and support, our counselors might need to discuss your situation with appropriate leaders of our church. Names will be withheld in these conversations unless absolutely necessary.
- If there is indication that you or someone else might be in danger of harm unless others intervene, our counselors might need to disclose information to civil authorities and to those in danger.
- In cases of suspected child or elderly abuse or neglect, our counselors have a legal obligation to report this to civil authorities.

**Our Aim:** Please be assured that we strongly prefer not to disclose your personal information to others and that we will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve problems as privately as possible.

**Our Ask:** Where your situation might involve legal issues, you must agree to treat all dealings with our counselors in your case as settlement negotiations, which means they will be inadmissible in a court of law or for legal discovery. You must also agree that you will not try to force our counselors to disclose any information acquired during counseling or to force our counselors to testify in any legal proceeding.

**Your Right:** You have the right to expect confidentiality within the limits prescribed above.

By signing below, you are acknowledging that you understand and accept the statements above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_