

## Confidentiality

Under normal circumstances, everything you discuss with your counselor will be held in strict confidence. However, you should be aware that there are some situations which we may be required by state law to report information (**mandated reporting**) to the proper authorities without your permission or knowledge. These situations may include, but not limited to:

- If child abuse is either reported or suspected.
- Reasonable evidence of elder abuse or abuse of a disabled person.
- When the counselee is a minor, the parents/guardians are entitled to know the condition, and progress of counseling. **Proof of (Legal guardianship and custody) consent required.**
- If the counselee poses a “clear and imminent danger” either to self or someone else. The counselor is required to report such danger to the appropriate parties, including family members, police, or the threatened party.
- Past instances of harm to a third person or involvement in a felony.
- If the counselee is or becomes a “vulnerable adult.”
- If the counselee releases information with a written authorization.
- If a court of law subpoenas your records. Although we are a Ministry of Biblical Counseling, we **are not expert** (trained witness) for any court proceeding(s) and **will not** attend court proceedings as an expert witness.
- When consultation or supervision with another Christian counselor is desired in order to provide the best possible therapy. Such discussions will, of course, remain private within the consultation or supervisory relationship.
- In some instances, counselees may be seen by a supervised lay counselor or a counselor-in-training. In these cases, the supervisees will meet regularly with their staff supervisor in order to discuss the progress of counseling and to plan how their counsel might best proceed.
- I understand that all counseling is values based, and that among the many values options available, such as secular, humanists, atheists, agnostic, New Age, Eastern, Universalists and the like, Emmaus Center counselors will represent the **Christian World View or perspective**. The Emmaus Center counseling approach will reflect the Christian values perspective by utilizing Scripture from Holy Bible, its principles, references, prayer, spiritual disciplines, counseling approaches and treatment.
- In the event that the undersigned counselor reasonably believes that I am a danger, physically or emotionally, to myself or another person, I specifically consent for the counselor to warn the person in danger and to contact the following persons, in addition to medical and law enforcement personnel.

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_