

## **Informed Consent Agreement for Remote Client-Professional Counseling**

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**In order to receive counseling services from EMMAUS CHRISTIAN COUNSELING (ECC) remotely, you must agree to the following:**

You understand that I cannot guarantee a positive counseling outcome, even though I am hopeful that our work together will be of help to you. In addition, you understand that online counseling is a new counseling procedure and its research and effectiveness is just beginning. Therefore, you understand that online counseling with me is an experimental counseling procedure at this time.

You agree to supply your true full name, address, and phone number on the Client Questionnaire.

You agree that all of the information you have provided to me in the Client Questionnaire is accurate, and that if any of this information is inaccurate, this may be a major limitation on my ability to help you.

You agree that you have read the separate section on Confidentiality, above in (*Form #3*), and you agree with the terms set out in that section.

You understand that I am a Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor of Certified Life Coach by the National Christian Counselor Association.

You agree that you are at least 18 years old and the person who has signed this form.

### **All online and telephone clients must understand and agree to the terms and conditions stated below:**

You agree that online and telephone counseling is not equally safe and effective for all individuals. Thus, I reserve the right to choose whether or not to work with you online or by telephone. I will work with you only if I feel that you are a suitable client. If, during our work together, I discover that you are not a client that can benefit from online or telephone counseling, I will discuss this with you and suggest that you seek face-to-face counseling help through other mental health professionals in your local area such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker or another Christian counselor. In addition, I may suggest that you seek help with your pastor or a local pastor in your area.

You understand that, if at any point in our work together I believe that it would be in your best interests to see a counselor face-to-face for, I will explain this to you and ask that you locate a counselor in your local area to work with.

You agree and understand that the effectiveness of online video Zoom, Skype or Face-Time or telephone counseling depends on the investment of time and energy you are willing to make.

You agree that I cannot be held responsible for providing services to you in the event of a crisis or emergency situation. While I will do my best to continue to provide services as appropriate if a crisis or emergency develops during our work together, you may need to find a local counselor if such a situation arises.

I understand that ON-LINE Counseling sessions are not adequate for emergency situations and my counselor will require me to call 9-1-1 and contact a local crisis response team or go to the nearest emergency room in an emergency situation.

You understand that I cannot be held responsible for unforeseen problems that may occur in my online and telephone services due to my computer malfunctioning, and/or loss of electricity or Internet connection. My office phone number is posted on this website; if you don't hear from me when you expect to, please don't hesitate to call me.

**Confidentiality In General:** You understand and agree that as a counselor, I protect the confidentiality of the communications and contacts with all of my clients, including online and telephone clients.

**Confidentiality Online:** You understand that when receiving counseling through email, online or telephone, it is impossible to guarantee 100% confidentiality protection. I will do everything possible to protect against any intrusions on my end. While there are always risks to your confidentiality in any setting, these risks are extremely small assuming common sense is used and appropriate precautions are taken.

The goal of our online or telephone counseling is to help you. Therefore, if either of us feels, at any time, that working together is not helpful enough to you; either of us is free to terminate our relationship at any time.

There are no other explicit or implicit commitments in our relationship.

### **Client Communication and Responsibilities:**

a. I understand I will need to have access to and be familiar with the appropriate zoom, face-time or Skype technology in order to participate in this service. Emmaus uses "Zoom" most of the time. Some counselors may use other platforms. I agree to use my own equipment and not equipment owned by another.

b. I **agree not to use** my employer's equipment. I understand that any information I enter into an employer's equipment can be considered **by the courts** to belong to the employer, and my privacy and confidentiality may be compromised.

c. It is my responsibility to maintain privacy on the **client end** of communication. I agree to use a secure and private environment while "meeting" with my counselor. I will not allow any other person(s) in the session unless discussed and agreed upon with my counselor. \_\_\_\_\_. This means wives, husbands, family members, friends, children. ***No one is authorized to be in any session unless agreed upon.*** I acknowledge I have read the document and fully understand the benefits and risks. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and received satisfactory information.

I voluntarily consent to participate in the ON-LINE Counseling services, including but not limited to spiritual care, biblical treatment, other services deemed necessary and advisable under the terms described herein.