



## Biblical Counseling Consent Form and Agreement

I/we desire to receive counseling and ministry from Harvest Bible Chapel Des Moines, Iowa ("HBC DSM"). I/we make the following acknowledgments and agreements and give the following consents:

1. The counseling will be by a counselor who is trained in biblical counseling who may or may not have other certifications or degrees.
2. A basic principle of biblical counseling is that the Bible is sufficient to understand how to live a God-pleasing life.
3. The counseling I/we will receive will be based upon scriptural principles rather than principles of psychology or psychiatry.
4. The counseling I/we will receive will be based on the conclusions that the Bible is inerrant and authoritative, and contains God's answers to the issues of life, conduct and relationships.
5. The counseling I/we will receive will reflect the counselor's understanding of the Bible and how the principles of scripture apply to the problems, questions or issues involved.
6. Because HBC DSM is also a training ministry, trainees (i.e. those being trained in biblical counseling) may be present in the counseling sessions and they will abide by the confidentiality statement articulated in #8 below.
7. If a dispute arises concerning the counseling of HBC DSM, or between a counselee and the counselor involved, or with Harvest Bible Chapel ("the dispute"), there shall be no lawsuit initiated and the claim cannot be filed in any state or federal civil court. Instead, the dispute must be resolved as follows:

The parties hereby exercise their election to submit any disputes or claims to Christian resolution. The parties understand that the Bible commands them to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). If all parties agree, the dispute can be submitted to the binding arbitration decision of agreed-upon local pastors and/or church leaders who would decide and judge between the parties, applying the principles of 1 Corinthians 6 and Matthew 18, as well as any other applicable scriptures. The parties understand that Christian dispute resolution methods shall be the sole remedy for any such dispute or claim. The parties further agree that if they fail to agree to submit the dispute or claim to local pastors and/or church leaders, then they hereby agree that any such claim or dispute arising from and related to the counseling at and by HBC DSM or with a counselor shall be settled by legally binding Christian arbitration, in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian

Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries (1537 Avenue D, Suite 352, Billings, MT), including its Rules as found at <https://peacemaker.training/guidelines-for-christian-conciliation/>.

8. Counseling at HBC DSM, including statements made during counseling, shall remain confidential, with the following qualifications and exceptions:
  - a. Counselors shall be free to discuss counseling sessions and cases with other HBC DSM counselors and the pastors of HBC DSM in order to gain the benefit of additional insight and input;
  - b. Counselors and pastors shall be entitled to seek a confidential legal opinion or advice from an attorney when it is deemed appropriate and helpful;
  - c. If any HBC DSM policy concerning the reporting of child abuse or child neglect, or the reporting of elder abuse or elder neglect, mandates a report to the authorities in compliance with the laws of the State of Iowa, then such a report will be made;
  - d. If a suicide risk is indicated, the counselors or pastors may seek necessary help and make whatever reports or disclosures as they deem to be proper and necessary;
  - e. If a counselee indicates an intention to commit a crime, such intention may be reported and disclosed to the proper authorities;
  - f. If the counselee is a member of a local church other than HBC DSM, and if the pastors of HBC DSM deem it necessary or helpful to communicate information or facts to the pastor of the counselee's local church, they may do so.
  
9. I/we give consent to my assigned counselor to record audio of our counseling sessions to aid the counseling process and to gain further understanding of important aspects of counseling. I understand that my full name will not be associated with this recording, nor my facial image be seen, and the recording will not go beyond those directly involved with the case or the review of my case for learning purposes. I understand that when my counseling is over, I may request that my recording be destroyed/deleted.

I/WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE PROVISIONS, AND I/WE UNDERSTAND THEM, AND I/WE HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE TERMS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE WAIVER OF SEEKING REDRESS (LAWSUIT) IN THE CIVIL COURT SYSTEMS, AND AGREEING THAT ANY AND ALL DISPUTES BE RESOLVED THROUGH CHRISTIAN RESOLUTION AS DETAILED ABOVE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1) Counselee Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1) Counselee Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Counselee Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Counselee Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Counselee Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Counselee Printed Name

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL DES MOINES

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Position