BLUE SPRINGS CHRISTIAN COUNSELING
1327 Mooresville Pike, Columbia, TN 38401 | 931-922-2770 | pastor.bluesprings@gmail.com

Informed Consent for Pastoral Counseling

PASTORAL / BIBLICAL COUNSELING | Accessible, editable Word form

Please read all sections before you sign. You may ask questions or request this document in an accessible format or have it read and explained to you. This form covers pastoral/biblical counseling only.

1. Who we are and what we offer

Blue Springs Christian Counseling is a church ministry offering pastoral guidance grounded in the Bible. The ministry currently has one pastoral counselor. Sessions may include discussion of Scripture, prayer when welcomed, spiritual encouragement, relationship guidance and practical reflection.

This ministry does not provide professional clinical mental-health counseling, psychotherapy, psychiatric assessment, mental-health diagnosis, treatment of mental disorders or medication management. The counselor acts in a pastoral capacity here, not as a clinical mental-health provider. No health insurance is billed.

2. Christian approach and voluntary participation

The ministry counsels from a Christian worldview and may discuss biblical perspectives on faith, marriage, family, personal responsibility, forgiveness and spiritual growth. You may ask questions, decline prayer or a suggested spiritual exercise, or discontinue participation. You do not have to belong to Blue Springs church to receive pastoral counseling.

3. Possible benefits, risks and limits

Pastoral conversations may support faith, personal reflection, decision-making, communication and relationships. Difficult discussions can also lead to temporary distress or disagreement. No result is guaranteed. If your needs call for professional mental-health, medical, legal, protective or specialized services, the pastor may recommend an appropriate referral.

4. Crisis assistance and referrals

This ministry is not a crisis service and does not provide emergency treatment. In an immediate emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department. For suicide or

emotional-crisis support in the United States, call or text 988. Do not rely on email, voicemail, text or an online appointment request for urgent help.

Pastoral care is not a substitute for needed professional assistance for serious mental-health concerns, substance dependence, domestic abuse or other problems requiring specialized assessment or protection. Seeking outside treatment is always your choice, unless applicable law requires a protective response.

5. Privacy and limitations on confidentiality

The pastor is the only ministry staff member with routine access to counseling records. These records are stored separately from general church records. Information is not routinely shared with other church personnel, volunteers, leaders, spouses, family members or outsiders without your authorization.

Privacy is not absolute. Disclosure may be required or appropriate by law or safety circumstances, including suspected abuse or neglect of a child; reportable abuse, neglect or exploitation of an older or vulnerable adult; a serious threat to safety; an emergency; a court order or other legal process; or a valid release signed by the appropriate person. Tennessee clergy privilege may protect certain confidential spiritual communications, but it does not cover every counseling conversation.

6. Records and electronic communication

Records may include this form, your intake form, attendance information and brief pastoral notes. They will be kept with restricted access and appropriate physical and electronic safeguards. The ministry aims to follow privacy and security practices comparable to HIPAA safeguards; this statement does not mean the ministry has been determined to be a HIPAA-covered entity.

Email, text, telephone, online platforms and voicemail involve privacy risks. Ordinary messages should mainly concern appointments and administration. No session will be recorded, livestreamed, transcribed or processed by automated note-taking or artificial intelligence without separate advance written permission.

7. Teens and guardians

When a client is under 18, the ministry ordinarily requires consent from a parent or legally authorized guardian before services begin, unless an applicable legal exception applies. The pastor may review custody or guardianship arrangements. The pastor will seek to respect the

teen's privacy while explaining the limits created by law, parental rights and safety. A teen may be asked to express assent even when guardian consent is required.

8. Couples and families

Every adult participating in a joint session must consent, and an authorized guardian must consent for each minor. Participants should expect information shared in a joint meeting to be known to others attending. A separate conversation with the pastor does not guarantee indefinite secrecy about matters that materially affect joint work. The pastor may encourage disclosure, modify the format or pause joint meetings. Signing for joint sessions does not grant outsiders access to counseling records.

9. In-person and online meetings

Sessions can take place at 1327 Mooresville Pike, Columbia, TN 38401, or through an agreed online platform. Use a private setting for online meetings, and do not participate while driving. At the beginning of an online meeting, you will be asked for your physical location and a callback number for safety purposes. Technology failure, privacy concerns and questions about counseling across state lines may require a session to be stopped or rearranged.

10. Accessibility and communication

Blue Springs Christian Counseling welcomes people with disabilities. We will work with you to identify reasonable ways to participate in pastoral counseling and complete forms. Options may include accessible electronic forms, large print, help reading or completing documents, adjusted meeting arrangements, live captions or interpreting arrangements when feasible, and online meetings when suitable. Contact the pastor privately to discuss your needs; a diagnosis is not required to request an accommodation. We will not charge a separate accommodation fee. Accessibility arrangements will be planned with attention to confidentiality and safety.

11. Donations, cancellation and questions

Counseling is provided without a required fee. Donations are welcome but entirely voluntary; donation decisions do not affect eligibility or priority. Please give at least 48 hours' notice to cancel or reschedule, when reasonably possible. No missed-appointment or cancellation fee is charged. To ask questions, request records, discuss accessibility or raise a complaint, contact the pastor at 931-922-2770 or pastor.bluesprings@gmail.com.

12. Consent and signatures

By signing, I understand that this is nonclinical pastoral/biblical counseling, the Christian approach, possible risks and limits, confidentiality limitations, the emergency procedure, the option to request accommodations, and the voluntary donation and cancellation policies. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and choose freely to participate.

I consent to these appointment formats (required) Choices: In person; online; both.
Answer:

Client / participating adult name (printed):

Client / participating adult signature:

Date:

Additional adult participant name (if applicable):

Additional adult participant signature:

Additional adult participant date:

Parent / legally authorized guardian name (if client is a minor):

Parent / legally authorized guardian signature:

Guardian signature date:

Teen name and assent signature (when appropriate):

Teen assent date:

Pastoral counselor signature:

Counselor signature date:

For family sessions involving more adults or guardians, attach additional signature pages. Guardians should consent for each minor as appropriate.