

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSENT TO COUNSEL & AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST/RELEASE INFORMATION

Our Mission – Transforming lives by the Word of God, in the Spirit of God, and through the community of God. We seek for the counseling care you will receive to be Christ centered [Col. 1:15-20], biblically grounded with truth and grace [John 1:14], Spirit led [John 6:63], prayer saturated [Col. 4:2], community based [Heb. 10:24-25]. We desire to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life.

Biblical Basis – We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for a life that is pleasing to God [2 Cor. 5:9]. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry [Col. 2:8]. Although some of the pastoral or lay counselors of Summit Point Church may be trained or licensed in other fields, such as medicine or psychology, they will not practice in that capacity but only as biblical counselors under the authority of the Elders of Summit Point Church.

Not Professional Advice – If you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional. Our ministry staff and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principles. We are often asked about insurance as well. As we do not practice as licensed professionals, we do not make diagnoses nor do we submit insurance claims. There is no charge for corrective counseling so there is no need to be reimbursed or cover a charge.

Resolution of Conflicts – On rare occasions, a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts are resolved in a biblical manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with a counselor or with Summit Point Church staff as a result of counseling will be settled by mediation under the leadership of SPC. We will make every effort to resolve conflict in a manner according to the principles of scripture [see Matt. 18:15-20].

Communication and Community – At Summit Point Church we desire to grow in caring for those in our flock who are hurting. It is imperative to our mission and your long-term care that we stay in consistent and regular communication with the leadership of Summit Point Church [Impact Group & Impact Group Coach and pastoral staff] and/or the person you have designated/chosen as your advocate. This form gives us permission to discuss the necessary information in regard to your situation with the appropriate and concerned parties in accordance with the confidentiality guidelines explained below. Please read the following information carefully.

Confidentiality – Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others beside your advocate or Impact Group leader:

1. When there is clear indication to harm him/herself or someone else.
2. When there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elderly person, or dependent adult.
3. If we are subpoenaed or court ordered to disclose information.
4. In discussions with the pastoral staff or elders of SPC, previous counselors and/or your advocate for the sole purpose of gaining information for your care or to help in follow up and after care.
5. When a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice and wisdom from another Summit Point Church staff member or elder.
6. When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation [see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11, Matthew 18:15-20].

In all of these situations, we will make every effort to be sensitive to your situation. Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose any of this personal information to others. We will strive to help you resolve the difficult situations you are experiencing as discretely as possible.

As part of our mission to train and equip others for counseling, we may have counselors-in-training participate in the counseling with us, this is a wonderful opportunity to be able to help someone else. The counselors-in-training are bound by the confidentiality guidelines the same as the counselor. If that makes you uncomfortable, let us know below. Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ. We desire to be used by God as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

I have read and understood the information above entitled “Consent to Counsel & Authorization to Request/Release information.”

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

I am okay with utilizing a counselor-in-training: [circle one]      Yes                  No