



## Hope Point Counseling Agreement

In order to be fully informed and to confirm the agreement concerning the counseling you will be receiving, Hope Point Church requires that you read through the following agreement, sign, and date it. This form must be completed and returned to the Hope Point pastoral counselor prior to the first session.

### **Description and Scope of Pastoral Counseling**

The goal of pastoral counseling is to help an individual think biblically about his/her current struggles in the context of a confidential, caring environment. A pastoral counselor relies on Scripture as the sole authority for faith and conduct, and recognizes that lasting change is the result of the power of God, the grace of Christ, and the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. Guided by biblical principals, the pastoral counselor's role is to utilize guided questioning, empathetic support, problem definition, reflection/reading assignments, encouragement, and prayer to provide wise, biblical and faithful counsel to those who are hurting and in need.

Hope Point does not have licensed professional counselors. By signing this you acknowledge your understanding that pastoral counseling is not a substitute for speaking with a licensed professional counselor. The pastoral counselor reserves the right to refer you to a licensed professional counselor at any time the pastoral counselor feels the situation is beyond his/her ability to properly aid in coming to a resolution. You have the choice to refuse a referral. If you are referred to a licensed professional counselor, you will be given the contact information of the licensed professional counselor to whom you are being referred to. However, it will be your own responsibility to make an appointment and pay for their counseling services.

If a referral is made to a licensed professional counselor, the pastoral counselor may recommend the counselee meet solely with the licensed professional counselor. In some cases, you can continue with pastoral counseling as long as you are also meeting regularly with the licensed professional counselor.

### **Confidentiality**

All information pertaining to pastoral counseling will be held in strict confidentiality. However, there are certain situations which the counselor is ethically and legally bound to report. The following are exceptions that will result in confidentiality being waived:

1. Hope Point counselors reserve the right to report child abuse or suspicion of child abuse of any kind to the proper authorities.
2. Hope Point counselors reserve the right to disclose to the appropriate person, agency, or authorities any threat by a counselee to harm himself/herself or another person.



## Hope Point Counseling Agreement

### Duration of Counseling

Hope Point counseling sessions can range from 1 – 5 sessions at 1 hour per session. Issues requiring more extensive care than five sessions will result in a referral.

### Fees

Counseling fees are \$60 per session. The following is an explanation of counseling fees.

- 1<sup>st</sup> session – Hope Point will pay the cost of the session.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> session – Hope Point will pay the cost of the session.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> session – Hope Point pays \$30 and the counselee pays \$30.
- Additional sessions – payments are the responsibility of the counselee at \$60 per session.

**Check payment** – checks should be made out to Hope Point Church with the word “counseling” in the memo line. You may give the check to the counselor.

**Electronic Payment** – you may also pay using the Hope Point app or on our website. If you pay electronically, please type the word “counseling” in the “Additional Information Other Comments” section.

\*\*We are unable to accept insurance.

### Termination of Counseling

The counselee has the right to end pastoral counseling at any time.

Hope Point pastoral counselors have the right to end our pastoral counseling at any time for the following reasons:

- If the counselor or his/her family are threatened in any way.
- If the counselor is placed which he/she in their sole discretion determine to be a potentially compromising position.
- If the issues of the counselee are deemed to be beyond the scope of the counselor’s abilities.
- If the counselor believes the counselee is not putting forth reasonable effort to meaningfully cooperate in the counseling process.



## Hope Point Counseling Agreement

### Waiver of Liability

In consideration for receiving pastoral counseling under the terms of this agreement, the Counselee agrees to release and waive any and all claims of any kind against Hope Point Church and its employees, agents, or members arising from or relating to participation in pastoral counseling.

**I, the undersigned, have carefully read, understand, and agree to all of the above terms and conditions. I further acknowledge that all the information contained on the following pages is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.**

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**Counselee Printed Name**

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**Counselee Signature**

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**Parent/Guardian signature if counselee is under 18**

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**Date**