

## **CLIENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

### **Benjamin A. Jones, MA, NCLPCA (#11895)**

I am pleased you have selected me as your counselor. This document is designed to provide you with information you need regarding my background and to ensure that you understand our professional relationship. We will discuss any questions about this information or other preliminary matters at the beginning of our work together.

I am a "Licensed Professional Counselor Associate" in North Carolina. I hold a Masters of Arts degree in Counseling from Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando, which was completed in May 2015. I joined The Barnabas Center on September 1, 2015.

#### **Counseling Services Offered/ Theoretical Approaches**

I am grateful for my training at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL. While there I worked at the Oviedo Counseling Clinic, which was a low cost counseling center where clients could be seen by counseling students. I did over 250 hours of counseling with individuals and couples while in school. I also had 150 hours of group counseling experience. I saw people with depression, suicidality, cutting, anorexia, history of sexual abuse, emotional problems, marital crisis, pre-marital couples, and people with problems related to addictions. My group work included facilitating Grief Share and Marriage 911 groups.

You can expect to work inside and outside of the counseling room. On occasion, I may request that you read books or interact with some assignment. Change is seldom quick and easy; therefore your consistent and ongoing effort will be very necessary.

The theoretical base for my work with you as a client will come from the concepts and ideas set forth by a variety of authors and teachers in the Christian counseling field, most notable are Drs. Larry Crabb and Dan Allender. This spiritual framework is integrated with perspectives of family systems, existential, psychodynamic and cognitive-behavioral understandings of how people work. My approach focuses on looking at patterns of relating to others as a way of understanding how you think, believe and behave towards life. Because we look at patterns, we will be looking at your whole life, not just the part of your life dealing with an immediate problem. We will talk about the pain that you are experiencing and we will talk about the strategies you are employing to deal with that pain. Some of the issues we deal with may evoke some uncomfortable feelings like sadness, guilt, anxiety, anger or frustration. In addition, some of our work may lead to what seems to be worsening circumstances or even losses. Despite these risks, our goal will always be to examine the struggles in light of Christ's love and sacrifice for us.

I believe that talking through both the pain and the strategies you use to handle the pain will enable you to accept what you cannot change and find constructive ways, which are in your control, to work with present problems. Implicit in this process are the Biblical concepts of forgiveness, reconciliation, and character development. Fundamentally the context of God's grace and His forgiveness enables positive change and growth to occur.

In working with couples, I primarily utilize techniques set forth by Susan Johnson collectively known as Emotionally Focused Therapy. I am certified in Prepare/Enrich, which is primarily used with pre-marital couples but can be used with married couples to analyze problem areas within the relationship.

My clients are adult individuals, couples, and families. Most of the clients I work with seek counseling due to a variety of relational and personal issues, such as anxiety, depression, and interpersonal conflict. I provide both individual and marriage counseling. I utilize an interpersonal and relational approach, which seeks to help facilitate positive change through the dynamics of the therapeutic relationship. I incorporate object relations and attachment theories into my understanding of how issues may have developed in a client's life. I may employ cognitive behavioral therapy techniques as a way to correct cognitive distortions a client may have.

I am not equipped to work individually with severe medical or psychological issues, and therefore will make appropriate medical or psychiatric referrals, as I deem necessary.

#### **Confidentiality**

The information you share with me as your counselor, including the fact that you are a client, will not be discussed outside the practice without your knowledge or consent, nor will your records be sent to or shown to others without a signed release from you. As we work together, any exceptions to confidentiality will be identified as they arise. The legal standing of privileged communication is less clear in marital and family work where there are really multiple clients. There are, however, a few exceptions to your individual privilege of confidential communication:

a. Danger to yourself or others. If you threaten to harm either yourself or others, or to commit a felony, and if I believe you might do this, I am under obligation under the law to protect any involved people from physical harm.

b. Child abuse. If I have reason to believe that you are abusing or neglecting a child, I am obligated under North Carolina law to report that to the Department of Social Services. You should also be aware that "social service agencies" define a broad range of events as reportable under child protection status, including various types of hitting which could not be construed as acceptable discipline, whether or not bruises are made. Also, there are times in which child abuse which occurred quite some time ago may be legally required to be reported; usually when the victim of past abuse is still under the age of 18. Thus far, I have not seen Social Services take any action in such cases of past abuse.

c. Domestic abuse. If I have reason to believe that you are abusing or neglecting another dependent or elderly adult; or that you are being abused or neglected yourself, I am obligated under North Carolina law to report that to the Department of Social Services.

d. Supervision. As an LPC Associate I am required by the state to regularly meet with a supervisor to discuss my

clients and my work with them. Consequently, your case may be discussed with my supervisor and other counselors as necessary. My supervision occasionally requires that I videotape or audiotape counseling sessions wherein my practice of therapy is reviewed. Videotape or audiotape of our sessions will always be at your written consent and will be discussed individually prior to the occurrence. Confidentiality is strictly maintained and the destruction of these tapes occurs after they have been used for their stated purpose. My current supervisor is Kurt Zuiderveen, LPCS #6732. He can be reached at (704) 365-4545 or by email at [kzuiderveen@thebarnabascenter.org](mailto:kzuiderveen@thebarnabascenter.org).

e. Litigation and legal proceedings. In rare circumstances, counselors can be court ordered to release information.

**Explanation of Dual Relationships**

Ethics require that I explain to my clients that the counseling relationship is strictly a professional relationship despite the fact that the information shared in a counseling session may be of a very personal nature. Ethics also require that all interactions between client and counselor be conducted in a professional manner.

**Length of Sessions**

Most counseling sessions run 50-55 minutes in length. Occasionally, it is necessary for a client to schedule a longer session (usually an hour and a half or two hours) if we seem to have trouble working within the hour time frame or if there is a problem with the frequency of visits. It is typical for a client to begin their counseling by scheduling an *appointment* on a once-a-week basis. However, we will schedule our sessions in a fashion that is mutually agreeable to both parties.

**Cancellations**

If you are unable to keep a scheduled appointment, please call to **cancel or reschedule at least 24 business hours in advance**. Otherwise, full payment for the session is required. This is because making an appointment reserves that time session only for you, the client, to the exclusion of others. Cancellations may be made by leaving a recorded message on my voice mail with the date and time.

**Fees and Method of Payment**

I will take payment by check, cash or credit/debit card at the beginning of each session and receipts are available at your request. The client assumes full responsibility for all expenses for counseling. If applicable a \$25 returned check fee will be charged.

The cost for each 50 minute session is \$135. The Barnabas Center staff raises funds to finance scholarships for clients who need them. Scholarships are available upon request and will be granted as available based on the sliding scale [annual gross household income]:

Income	Fee
Under 25,000	\$55
25,001-40,000	\$65
40,001- 50,000	\$75
50,001-65,000	\$85
65,001-80,000	\$95

80,001-100,000	\$105
Above 100,000	\$135

Applications for scholarship may be requested in person or by telephone through the office administrator.

Your fee will be \$\_\_\_\_ per session. Your scholarship fee will be \_\_\_\_\_ per session (to be determined upon application review).

**Insurance Payments**

Because I am not working with a full-time Psychologist or Psychiatrist and because my degree is at the Masters level, most insurance companies do not cover counseling sessions. However, should you think that your insurance company may be an exception to this; you are welcome to contact them and file a claim for insurance coverage. I am unable to make claims for you, but I will provide the information your insurance company may need. Please be aware that any personal information or diagnosis provided to an insurance company can no longer be held to the same standard of confidentiality, and may well become part of your permanent insurance record. Though you may receive insurance benefits, you will still be expected to pay for each session as it occurs.

**Grievance Process**

If you are dissatisfied with any portion of your work with me, please inform me immediately. Part of therapy is to work out solutions in a safe environment. If you think you have been treated unfairly or unethically, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors has the general responsibility of regulating the practice of licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, and unlicensed professionals who practice psychotherapy. Any questions, concerns, or complaints regarding the practice of psychotherapy or any other mental health profession may be directed to: North Carolina Board of Licensed Counselors, P.O. Box 77819, Greensboro, NC 27417, at (844) 622-3572 or by email at [complaints@ncblpc.org](mailto:complaints@ncblpc.org).

Please sign and date two copies of this form. You will be given a copy for your records, and I will retain a copy for my records.

By signing below I signify that I have read and understand (or have asked for clarification) the information presented.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client's signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client's signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian's signature Date  
(If Applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counselor's signature Date  
Benjamin A. Jones, MA, LPCA