

## **CLIENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**Roger Edwards**

**Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor**

**License Number 857**

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. I hold a Master's degree in Counseling from Grace Theological Seminary. I graduated from this program in 1988, and have been a professional practicing counselor since that year. I have been with the Barnabas Center since mid-1991 and have been practicing counseling for twenty years. I am a "Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor" in North Carolina.

I offer marriage counseling and individual counseling for adults working through a variety of relational and personal issues such as depression and anxiety.

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

It is important that you understand from the outset of our counseling relationship that The Barnabas Center is a non-profit, Christian counseling and teaching center purposed to enable deeper and more loving relationships with God and others. I believe that relationships provide the context in which people can see that their struggles with others and within themselves are foundational struggles with God. My purpose as a counselor is to help people find ways to move toward richer, fuller, more loving relationships with others and God - through greater dependency on Christ.

You can expect to work inside and outside of the counseling room. 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 Dr.'s Larry Crabb and Dan Allender. It is a dynamic approach that looks at patterns of relating to others as a way of understanding how you think, believe and behave towards life. This spiritual framework is integrated with perspectives of existential, family systems, psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral understandings of how people work. 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 (for example, counseling will not necessarily keep a marriage in tact). Despite these possibilities, 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 will enable you to accept what you cannot change and therefore must accept, and find constructive ways to face present problems over which you have some control. 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.

Most of the clients I work with seek counseling due to a variety of life struggles. 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. The counseling ministry has a policy of supervision to help guarantee quality of service. Consequently, your case may be discussed with other counselors at the Center or with our supervising psychologist. Every attempt will be made to disguise your identity.

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. All Barnabas Center staff are committed to such professionalism.

## 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 \$165. 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 \$25,001	\$75
25,001-40,000	\$85
40,001-55,000	\$100
55,001-70,000	\$110
70,001-85,000	\$120
85,001-100,000	\$130
100,001-125,000	\$140
125,001-150,000	\$155
Above 150,000	\$165

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

Your fee will be \$165 per session. Your scholarship fee will be      per session (to be determined upon application review).

## Insurance Payments

Because The Barnabas Center does not employ 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 rule, you are welcome to contact them and file a claim for insurance coverage. We at the center do not have the capability to do so for you, though we will be happy to 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 Procedures:** 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 Clinical Mental Health Counselors has the general responsibility of regulating the practice of licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed clinical mental health 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: NC Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, PO Box 77819, Greensboro, NC, 27417 or by phone at (844) 622-3572 or email at [Complaint@ncblcmhc.org](mailto:Complaint@ncblcmhc.org).

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

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Client #1 signature	Date
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Client #2 signature	Date
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Guardian's signature (If Applicable)	Date
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Counselor's signature Roger Edwards, MA LCMHC	Date
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