

CLIENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Virginia Phillips

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

License # 1620

I hold a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and Counseling from Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson MS. I have practiced marriage and family therapy and counseling in a variety of settings. I am trained to work with individuals, children, couples, and families with a variety of life struggles.

Counseling Services Offered/ Theoretical Approaches

It is important that you understand from the outset of our counseling relationship that Christway Counseling is a Christian Counseling Ministry 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 field of Counseling. 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. 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. Within the context of couples or family counseling, any thing that is shared independently from other family members will be held confidential unless authorized through written consent. 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. Child abuse includes, but may not be limited to severe physical punishment, sexual molestation, neglect and abandonment.

c. Elderly 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. In order to provide the highest quality of service I have a policy of supervision. Consequently, your case may be discussed with other counselors within the practice.

e. Litigation and legal proceedings. If you are involved in any court case or legal proceedings, I may be required by the court to testify about your counseling regardless of whether you give your permission. If I am required to appear in court regarding your counseling you will be charged an hourly fee of \$200 for my time even if you didn't initiate the subpoena.

f. Insurance claims. Your insurance company may require information about your treatment to pay a claim. Similar to a medical visit it is usually limited to a diagnosis and will only rarely include limited personal details.

Client Initials and Date _____

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 Christway Counselors are committed to such professionalism.

Length of Sessions

Most counseling sessions run 50 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 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

My fee is \$120 per session. If you choose not to bill through your insurance company and are under a financial hardship you may use the reduced fee rates below. The scale is based on your household annual gross income. There is a \$25 service charge for returned checks.

Please Circle

Under \$30,000	\$70
30,001-40,000	\$80
40,001-50,000	\$90
50,001-75,000	\$100
75,001-100,000	\$110
Above 100,000	\$120

Insurance Payments

Christway Counseling is currently in-network with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. We are eligible to work with most BCBS policies. We are not able to work with the Blue-Values and Blue-Local policies.

Complaint Procedures

If you are dissatisfied with any portion of our work, please inform me immediately. Part of therapy is working out solutions in a safe environment. If you think you have been treated unfairly or unethically, by me or any other counselor, and cannot resolve this problem with me, you can contact the North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board at P.O. Box 37669 Raleigh NC. Phone number: 919-654-6914; email: ncmftlb@nc.rr.com

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

_____ Client's signature	_____ Date
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_____ Client's signature	_____ Date
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_____ Guardian's signature (If Applicable)	_____ Date
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_____ Counselor's signature Virginia Phillips, MAMFT, LMFT	_____ Date
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