

## **CLIENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**Wes Phillips**

**Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist**

**License # 1488**

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** \_\_\_\_\_

