



CONSENT TO COUNSELING
South Bay Biblical Counseling
578 Montauk Highway
East Moriches, NY 11940

OUR GOAL – Our goal in providing faith-based counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life. Counseling is offered based on the Counseling Donation Schedule below, *with some attendance restrictions as explained by your counselor*. South Bay Biblical Counseling is a ministry of South Bay Bible Church. There are funds available to assist financially challenged people in paying for counseling. Please ask your counselor for details when making the appointment.

BIBLICAL BASIS – We believe the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3-4) rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. We reject the teachings and methods of modern psychology or psychiatry, whether expressly secular or an attempted integration with biblical principles. Neither the pastoral nor the lay counselors of this church are trained or licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals, nor should they be expected to follow the methods and common practices of such specialists.

NOT PROFESSIONAL ADVICE - If you have significant medical, legal, financial, or technical questions, you should seek advice from a competent independent professional. Our counselors will cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in light of scriptural principles. More specifically, we urge our counselees to properly care for their physical bodies and to seek proper medical treatment for all physiological problems. Our counselors will assist you in responding to such problems in a godly manner, but our counsel is not intended to replace the services of a qualified physician where organic problems are present or where medication has been prescribed.

CONFIDENTIALITY - Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are five situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: when a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor, counselor, or elder in this church; when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; when law may require a counselor to reveal spousal or child abuse, or some other crime, to the appropriate authorities or when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).

(See Reverse Side)

RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT – On rare occasions a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 forbids Christians from bringing lawsuits against one another in secular courts of law. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with a counselor or with this church as a result of counseling will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. The arbiters will be the elders and deacons of South Bay Bible Church. If one or more elders of the church are party to the dispute, then three arbiters will be selected from the Official Board of Leaders at South Bay Bible Church. Each party to the dispute will choose one arbiter, and the two arbiters then selecting the third. It is expressly understood that by consenting in advance to the arbitration, the counselee is waiving his right to a trial in the civil courts by jury or otherwise. *We will be happy to provide you with booklets upon request that explain the Christian conciliation process and describe its benefits and procedures.*

TRAINING - Counseling sessions may include an intern/counselor-in-training. These individuals are subject to the same professional and ethical standards as your counselor.

CANCELLATION POLICY – South Bay Biblical Counseling has a 48-hour cancellation/rescheduling policy. If you miss your appointment, cancel, or change your appointment with less than 48 hours' notice, you will be charged \$25. Exceptions are for sudden illnesses and emergencies only.

COUNSELING DONATION SCHEDULE – Our counseling ministry is supported by donations made for the services provided. The usual counseling donations vary with the demand, experience, and education of the counselor. The schedule below shows our usual counseling donation schedule:

South Bay Members	No Charge
Executive Director	\$75/Session
Certified Biblical Counselors	\$45/Session
Interns*	\$25/Session

Ministry cycle discounts are available after your first appointment and will be explained by your counselor.

*South Bay Biblical Counseling is a training center. Interns are individuals studying to be Certified Biblical Counselors. During their studies and supervision, with the approval of their supervisor, they may take clients at a reduced fee. Their casework is strictly overseen by the Executive Director.

Please do not let your financial situation hinder you from seeking our counseling services. Full or partial financial grants may be available upon request.

Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to find proper biblical answers to your problem(s). If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with your counselor.

Your signature below indicates your informed consent and explicit agreement to these guidelines.

Signed _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Date _____