



INFORMED CONSENT FOR PASTORAL COUNSELING SERVICES

Welcome and Organizational Clarification

Welcome to Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling (TVPC). We are pleased you have chosen our services. This informed consent is intended to help you understand the nature, scope, expectations, and limitations of when entering the process of pastoral counseling.

While you may have accessed counseling through initiatives such as Marital Triage, Plug-and-Pray™, or any other program or ministry initiative offered under the administration of The Flood Legacy Foundation, all counseling services, whether individual, marriage, or family, are provided under Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling (TVPC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 46-4227922).

You may see different logos or program names on materials or websites, but all professional counseling is conducted through Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling (TVPC) to ensure compliance with applicable laws and professional standards. Please read this document carefully. Your participation constitutes your informed consent to the terms outlined below.

Professional Disclosure

Professional disclosure for Dr. Lance Flood:

Lance Flood is a graduate of Liberty University, and holds a B.S. in Biblical Studies and Psychology, an M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy, an M.A. in Addiction and Recovery Counseling, and a Ph.D. in Pastoral Counseling. He also holds Graduate Certificates from Liberty University in Executive Leadership and Pastoral Counseling. Dr. Flood is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and serves as President of the North America Christian Counselors Association.

Details regarding his education and experience can be found at: floodlegacy.org/leadership/drfflood.html.

Licensure and Scope of Practice Statement

Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling does not accept insurance. Dr. Flood does not maintain state licensure, which allows this ministry to operate with greater freedom and flexibility as a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity in ways that directly benefit our clients.

Regarding education and clinical training, Dr. Flood has completed graduate and doctoral level coursework equivalent to that completed by state licensed clinicians. His post-graduate work includes specialization in couples counseling involving Cluster B personality dynamics, an area in which licensed clinicians have even periodically consulted with him due to the specialized nature of this work.

The decision not to pursue state licensure is deliberate and rooted in two primary commitments.

First, providing explicitly Christ-centered care. Counseling services integrate biblical wisdom, prayer, and spiritual formation as core components of the counseling process. Operating outside state licensure requirements allows faith to be integrated openly and consistently, without compartmentalizing spiritual formation from clinical care.

Second, maintaining accessibility. Operating outside the licensing and insurance systems allows greater flexibility in fee structure and administrative burden. This enables counseling services to be offered without insurance billing, licensing overhead, or ethical complications related to charging below market rates within the licensed professional community.

This approach combines rigorous clinical expertise with the freedom to provide holistic and unapologetically Christian pastoral counseling with no established fee.

Clients are encouraged to ask questions about training, credentials, scope of practice, or referrals at any time so they may make an informed decision regarding participation in counseling services.

One of the distinctive aspects of this practice is a commitment to providing quality Christian pastoral counseling to individuals, couples, and families. Clients are not required to share Christian beliefs. However, clients have the right to know that counseling services are grounded in a Christian worldview.

The counseling process integrates professional training, ongoing supervision, continuing education, and reliance upon the Bible as the ultimate source of truth, along with dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit in personal transformation.

Clients are encouraged to raise questions or concerns about the counseling approach at any time so they may be addressed openly and respectfully.

Counseling Roles and Provider Focus

Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling offers counseling services for individuals, couples, and families through a unified pastoral counseling ministry. Counseling services are provided by designated counselors based on focus areas, relational dynamics, and the nature of the counseling sought.

Dr. Flood's counseling focus includes individual counseling for adult men, marriage counseling for couples, and counseling for adolescent males, with particular emphasis on marital restoration, relational dynamics, and complex personality and attachment patterns.

Mrs. Flood's counseling focus includes individual counseling for women children, and adolescent females with an emphasis on emotional safety, relational health, and personal growth within a Christ-centered counseling framework.

This provider focus allows Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling to offer comprehensive care while maintaining clarity, integrity, and appropriate pastoral boundaries. Clients are scheduled with the counselor whose focus best aligns with their needs as part of the intake process.

Substance Use and Faith-Based Counseling Framework

Substance use laws vary by jurisdiction. Certain substances, including some cannabis or THC related products, may be legal for recreational or medicinal use in some states. Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling does not affirm, encourage, or support the use of mood altering or intoxicating substances as part of the counseling process.

Within this faith based counseling framework, substance use may be discussed for the purposes of assessment, understanding behavioral patterns, and exploring the potential impact on mental, emotional, relational, and spiritual well-being. Such discussion does not constitute endorsement, validation, or therapeutic recommendation of substance use.

Clients acknowledge that counseling services are provided from a Christian pastoral perspective and that recommendations will reflect this framework. If a client desires counseling that affirms or integrates substance use into treatment goals, referral to another provider may be recommended to ensure appropriate fit and continuity of care.

Telehealth Services and Jurisdiction

Counseling services may be provided through secure, HIPAA compliant telehealth platforms. Clients acknowledge that counseling services are considered to take place in the state where the client is

physically located at the time of the session. Clients are responsible for ensuring they are legally permitted to receive pastoral counseling services in their jurisdiction at the time of each session.

Telehealth services carry potential risks, including interruptions due to technology failure or unauthorized access. Reasonable efforts are made to protect confidentiality, though absolute security cannot be guaranteed.

Intoxication and Session Participation

Clients agree to attend counseling sessions free from intoxication. Participation in counseling while under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or other substances that impair cognition, judgment, or emotional regulation may interfere with the counseling process. If intoxication is observed or suspected, the session may be rescheduled. Repeated occurrences may result in referral to another provider.

Financial Policy

Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling operates under the Luke 6:38 model and provides counseling services on a pro bono basis. Clients are not charged fees for counseling services. Voluntary contributions may be made in support of the ministry at www.floodlegacy.org/support. While voluntary contributions are greatly appreciated, they have no bearing on access to services.

Availability of Services

This ministry does not provide emergency counseling services. In the event of a medical, psychiatric, or life threatening emergency, clients should contact local emergency services by calling 911 or utilize appropriate community crisis resources.

While established clients may attempt to make contact during urgent situations, immediate response is not guaranteed. Every effort will be made to respond to messages within 24 hours. A rapid response in one situation does not establish an ongoing expectation of immediate availability.

Appointments and Attendance

Regular attendance is an important component of effective counseling. Each session is scheduled for approximately 50 minutes. A minimum of 24 hours' notice is required for appointment cancellations. Late cancellations or repeated missed appointments may result in limited future access to services.

Session availability varies based on client demand. High demand appointment times may be limited to ensure equitable access and counselor workload balance. Appointment reminders may be sent by email or text if the client opts in. Reminder phone calls are not provided.

Privacy, Confidentiality, and Records

All counseling communications and records are held in strict confidence in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. Exceptions to confidentiality include, but are not limited to, situations involving risk of serious harm to the client or others, suspected abuse or neglect of a child, elderly person, or dependent adult, or other circumstances required by law.

Counseling Process and Client Rights

Counseling begins with an intake and assessment process to better understand presenting concerns, personal history, and relevant contextual factors. Following assessment, counseling goals and a plan of care will be discussed collaboratively.

Clients have the right to participate actively in goal setting, to request revisions to the counseling plan, to refuse recommendations, or to withdraw from counseling at any time. Clients will be informed of potential consequences associated with refusal or withdrawal when applicable.

Audio and Video Recording

Audio or video recording of counseling sessions by either the client or the counselor is strictly prohibited to protect confidentiality and the integrity of the counseling process.

Relational Standards and Counseling Scope

Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling provides services within a Christian pastoral framework that affirms biblical teaching regarding marriage and covenantal commitment.

Couples counseling is offered for married couples, including intensive restoration work in situations involving separation, infidelity, or adultery, where the stated goal is the healing and restoration of the marriage covenant. Premarital counseling is offered for engaged couples preparing for marriage.

Counseling services are not provided for relationships or pairings that seek affirmation, facilitation, or continuation of sexual or romantic relationships outside of a biblical marriage covenant. This includes counseling a spouse together with an extramarital partner.

Individual counseling may be offered to persons navigating relational crises, including issues that may be related to addiction and/or infidelity, provided the counseling goals align with the restoration of personal integrity, accountability, and, where applicable, marital and/or family reconciliation.

When presenting goals fall outside the scope of this pastoral framework, referral to another provider may be recommended to ensure appropriate fit and continuity of care.

Professional Boundaries and Dual Relationships

The counseling relationship is strictly professional and therapeutic in nature. Social interactions, personal relationships, or social media connections between clients and counselor are not permitted. These boundaries exist to protect client welfare, maintain clarity of roles, and preserve confidentiality. Clients who believe they have been treated unfairly or have concerns about boundaries are encouraged to raise those concerns promptly so they may be addressed.

Referral of Services

In some circumstances, referral to another qualified professional may be recommended to better meet a client's needs. This may include referral for medical evaluation, psychiatric services, specialized treatment, or counseling approaches outside the scope of pastoral counseling. Referral decisions are made in the interest of client care and ethical practice.

Code of Ethics

Dr. Flood strictly adheres to professional codes of ethics appropriate to his training and affiliations. Clients may request information regarding ethical standards at any time.

Consent for Evaluation and Counseling

By signing below, consent is given for evaluation and pastoral counseling services under the terms described in this informed consent document. It is understood that either the client or the counselor may discontinue counseling at any time, for any reason. In the case of a minor, the undersigned affirms legal authority to consent to counseling services.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Minor Clients:

Full Name of Minor: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Relationship to Minor:** _____

CLIENT INTAKE FOR PASTORAL COUNSELING SERVICES

Client Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Current Marital Status: Married Divorced Single Separated Widowed

If married, what number marriage is this for you? 1 2 3 4 5 6

Spousal Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Current Marital Status: Married Divorced Single Separated Widowed

If married, what number marriage is this for you? 1 2 3 4 5 6

Children (if applicable)

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Referral Information

Referred by: _____ Organization: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Counseling History & Presenting Concerns

Have you previously received counseling? Yes No

If yes, by whom and for what reason? _____

Have you ever attempted suicide? Yes No If yes, when? _____

Have you been hospitalized for mental health or addiction issues? Yes No

If yes, when and for what reason? _____

Please briefly describe your reason(s) for seeking counseling: _____

How long has this situation lasted? _____

Severity: Mild Moderate Severe

What do you hope to gain from counseling? _____

Religious/Spiritual Information

Church membership: _____

Brief description of your spiritual life: _____

Medical Information

Primary Care Physician / Clinic: _____ Phone: _____

Current medical conditions: _____

Past medical conditions or surgeries: _____

List of current medications: _____

Do you use tobacco, alcohol, or other substances? Yes No

If yes, please specify type and frequency: _____

Legal Information

Are you currently involved in or anticipating any legal action? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Is counseling recommended or ordered by an attorney, court, or probation/parole system? Yes No

Consent

I affirm that the above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that counseling services are provided by Tennessee Valley Pastoral Counseling, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Minor Clients:

Full Name of Minor: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Relationship to Minor:** _____

INSTRUCTIONS ON RETURNING YOUR COMPLETED FORMS

NOTE: YOU DO NOT NEED TO PRINT THIS PAGE.

Thank you for reviewing and completing this informed consent and intake packet. Once you have filled out all required sections, please **print the forms, sign them, and scan or take a clear, high-resolution photo of each page**. Email the completed forms directly to: DrFlood@floodlegacy.org.

Please ensure all signatures, dates, and any handwritten notes in your intake form are legible. **Your counseling sessions cannot begin until the completed forms have been received and reviewed.**

We appreciate your attention to these details and look forward to serving you with care, professionalism, and Christ-centered counseling.