



Counseling Interview Agreement

*“Come to me all you who are weary and
burdened and I will give you rest.”*

Matthew 11:28

*To talk to a counselor about counseling services, print out and complete this form and fax to **812-524-8770** or mail to **CrossLife Ministries, 115 W. Church Avenue, Suite #2, Seymour, IN 47274**. Then call **812-522-8440** to set up an appointment or indicate that we should call you.*

Thank you for your interest in counseling. **Our goal** at CrossLife Ministries is to provide Christ-centered counseling to help you or a loved one deal with personal struggles or improve relationships so that you “may have life and have it to the full.” (John 10:10b NIV).

We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, beginning with what God has done for us through Christ, we base our services primarily on scriptural principles rather than only those of secular psychology or psychiatry. God’s Word urges us to live in peace with each other by promoting understanding, personal responsibility, justice, and reconciliation (Romans 12).

Description of Services – CrossLife Ministries offers different levels of counseling and Christian reconciliation services. We provide Christ-centered **counseling** through licensed family and marriage counselors. Reconciliation services are described in an Interview Agreement through Reconciliation Ministries, a ministry of Ambassadors of Reconciliation. All of our counseling and reconciliation services are provided according to the *Rules of Procedure* found in *Guidelines for Christian Conciliation* published by Peacemaker Ministries®. The *Rules* are incorporated in this agreement by reference as set forth in their entirety. (The *Rules* can be viewed online at www.peacemaker.net/guidelines; Select “Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation”).

Not Legal Representation – Christian counseling and reconciliation may be used to resolve legal disputes (Matthew 5:23-26; 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Even so, our counselors and reconcilers *do not* provide the kind of legal advice and advocacy that can be obtained through a personal attorney. We work with and for all of the people in a dispute helping them to find a mutually satisfactory agreement. Therefore, if you are concerned about your legal rights, you should consult with an independent attorney who would be willing to accompany and advise you, if you deem it necessary, during the reconciliation process.

Fees – **There is no fee charged for a 30-minute initial consultation.** After initial consultation, our counseling fees are charged at \$75.00 per hour (reduced rates are available based on annual income), plus expenses. Travel time is charged at half the normal rate. Expenses include such things as long distance phone calls, materials, and traveling expenses (i.e., meals, transportation, lodging, etc.). Fees are payable in advance of each counseling appointment. Those who need help with fees are encouraged to apply for reduced fees, based on need (determination is based on annual income).

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling and conciliation process and **we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us.** However, **we may need to divulge information to appropriate authorities** if there is a clear indication that someone might otherwise be harmed (see *Rules of Procedure 16* and *17*). We ask that **you agree** not to discuss our communication with people who do not have a necessary interest in the counseling or reconciliation process. By participating in any reconciliation process, **you agree** to treat all dealings with us in regard to this dispute as settlement negotiations, which means that they will be inadmissible in a court of law or for legal discovery. Furthermore, **you agree** that you will not try to force any counselor or reconciler to divulge any information acquired during reconciliation or to testify in any legal proceeding related to this dispute.

Our Commitments to You – We desire that parties be given the opportunity to tell their story in a safe environment and to lay their burden at the foot of the cross. To that end we will:

- Listen with caring, compassionate concern, seeking to understand and to be supportive.
- Provide you with the opportunity to tell us what is needed for healing and restoration.
- Bring the Gospel to bear as we have opportunity, including confession and forgiveness.
- Provide biblical counseling to help you live out your vocation as children of God in your situations.
- Keep confidences, only reporting to authorities what is appropriate or required by law (see above on *confidentiality*).
- Make recommendations for the development of future reconciliation ministries and other support groups within the church as may be appropriate to your situation.

If you have any questions about this agreement, please speak with one of our staff. If these terms are acceptable to you, please acknowledge with your signature below.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Phone: _____

Annual Income (to determine fees): _____

Please complete the following:

Check one: I will call CrossLife Ministries for an appointment.
 Please have someone call me for an appointment at number listed above.
 Best times to call are _____

In the space below, briefly describe the situation for which you are seeking help:
