

Crossed-Up

A Counseling Ministry of The Cross Loganville

3275 Tig Knight Rd. Loganville, GA 30052

Informed Consent Form

Welcome to Crossed-Up. A counseling ministry of The Cross Loganville. This document contains our office policies. If you have any questions, your counselor will gladly discuss them with you.

For many people, counseling is a new experience. New situations naturally lead us to have some misconceptions about what to expect. This information may answer some of your questions and help you to use these services more effectively. In addition, this document contains critical information that you need to know about your counseling. Please read this material carefully. You must **SIGN the final page**, verifying that you have read and understood this material.

THE PROCESS OF COUNSELING

Participating in the counseling process is voluntary. We respect your decision to seek counseling and know that it may be the most constructive step that you have taken thus far. Your willingness to share your difficulties and concerns demonstrates courage, wisdom, and resourcefulness on your part.

Counseling is a cooperative venture with responsibility resting on both the counselor and counselee. Your first session, or intake, will be structured to help your counselor understand the problems you are facing. You may also be asked to take one or more assessment inventories to more quickly and thoroughly understand you and the problems you are facing. The counseling approach that I utilize includes the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. The goal of counseling is to bring renewal and to enhance the quality of life for the counsees that this practice serves. Because each counselee is a unique individual with unique struggles, no one course of counseling will apply to everyone. In general, however, the beginning stage of counseling involves clearly identifying the issues by which you are troubled. The second stage involves gaining insights into patterns of emotions, thoughts, and behaviors related to your problems. These insights will help you begin to make needed changes. In the last stage, you will be encouraged to actively apply and solidify new insights and skills to facilitate change in yourself and your life situations.

The duration of counseling depends on many factors unique to your particular situation. My objective is to provide you with the most effective form of therapy within my level of competency. Experience shows that those who are most motivated to work on their problems, follow their counselor's advice, and complete homework assignments see the greatest improvement most quickly.

INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO COUNSELING

The ministry of Crossed-Up exists for the purpose of helping others find restoration, healing, and freedom in Jesus Christ. While this practice offers a traditional approach to counseling, this practice offers its counsees the opportunity to have a Christian approach that is Biblically sound and consistent with a Christian worldview. The approach incorporates prayer, the spiritual disciplines, and Biblical truth to help counsees utilize their spiritual resources in dealing with their concerns in a way that brings honor to God.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND HIPAA

The Law protects the privacy of communications between counselor and counsee. In most situations, we can only release information about your treatment to others if your sign a written Authorization form that meets certain legal requirements imposed by HIPAA. Your signature on this Agreement provides consent to the following activities.

- I may find it helpful to consult other health and mental health professionals or the pastoral team at The Cross Loganville about a case. During a consultation, I make every effort to avoid revealing the identity of my counsee. The other professionals are also legally bound to keep the information confidential.
- You should be aware that at present, I am working toward meeting the state of Georgia's requirements for full licensure. As a part of this development, I currently work under the guidance of a supervisor, who is a fully licensed professional counselor. As such, regular consultations with the supervisor are requirement for development purposes. Once again, during a consultation, I make every effort to avoid revealing the identity of my counsee. The supervisor is also legally bound to keep the information confidential.
- If a client threatens to harm himself/herself, I may be obligated to seek hospitalization for him/her or to contact family members or others who can help provide protection.

There are some situations where I am permitted or required to disclose information without ether your consent or authorization:

- If you are involved in a court proceeding and a request is made for information concerning my professional services, such information is protected by the psychologist-patient privilege law. I cannot provide information without your written authorization, or a court order. If you are involved in, or contemplating litigation, you should consult your attorney to determine whether a court would be likely to order me to disclose information.
- If a government agency is requesting the information for health oversight activities, I may be required to provide it for them.

- If a client files a complaint or lawsuit against me, I may disclose relevant information regarding that client in order to defend myself.

There are some situations in which I am legally obligated to take actions, which I believe are necessary to attempt to protect others from harm and I may have to reveal some information about a client's treatment.

- If I have reason to believe that a child has been abused, the law required that I file a report with DFACS. Once such a report is filed, I may be required to provide additional information.
- If I have reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult or elder person has been abused, I am required to report that to the appropriate agency. Once such a report is filed, I may be required to provide additional information.
- If I determine that a client presents a serious danger of violence to another, I may be required to take protective actions. These actions may include notifying the potential victim, and/or contacting the police, and/or seeking hospitalization for the client.

If such as situation arises, I will make every effort to fully discuss it with you before taking any action and I will limit my disclosure to what is necessary. Please feel free to discuss any concerns or questions you may have about confidentiality

PROFESSIONAL RECORDS

Each counselor within the Crossed-Up ministry keeps a set of professional records, which provides pertinent information regarding the contents of the session. Because these are professional records, they can be misinterpreted and/or upsetting to the untrained readers. For this reason, we recommend that you initially review them in the presence of your counselor, or have them forwarded to another mental health professional so you can discuss the contents.

In addition, counselors also keep a set of psychotherapy notes. These psychotherapy notes are kept separate from your clinical record. Your psychotherapy notes are not available to you and cannot be sent to anyone else without your written, signed authorization.

APPOINTMENTS

Your initial appoint will be scheduled for one hour, unless other arrangements have been made. Subsequent appoints are **scheduled for 45-50 minutes** to allow the counselor time between appoints to make and/or review notes in preparation for the next session. Once your appointment is scheduled, **it is your responsibility to keep track of the dates and times of your appointments.**

Should the need to arise to cancel an appointment, please call as soon as possible.

PROFESSIONAL FEES

Services with Crossed-Up are provided as a part of the ministry of The Cross Loganville. In an effort to help support this ministry, offsetting costs for counselor time, administrative and additional costs, there is a fee of **\$40 per session** assessed as a donation into the ministry and to The Cross Loganville. This is also a personal investment into the work you will be doing through counseling. Payments can be made at the time of service where receipt a will be provided. Cash or check will be accepted payable to **The Cross Loganville**.

DUAL RELATIONSHIP

Counselors often have an influential position with respect to clients, and should avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. Therefore every effort will be made to avoid conditions and multiple (dual) relationships with clients that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. Such relationships include, but are not limited to, business or close personal relationships with a client. When the risk of impairment or exploitation exists due to conditions or multiple roles, we will take appropriate precaution. Not all dual relationships can be avoided. As the Crossed-Up Counseling Ministry is sits as a ministry of The Cross Loganville, encounters with the counselor will be a possibility. Every effort will continue to be made to preserve the integrity of counselor-counselee relationship.

INSURANCE

Insurance is currently not accepted for the services of the Crossed-Up ministry.

ABOUT THE COUNSELOR

Richard felt a strong calling on his life that really began to move him into the direction of counseling in 2015. Richard is currently completing his Masters of Arts Degree in Professional Counseling through Liberty University and is entering his Internship phase to complete his program with the goal of pursuing his LPC license in the state of Georgia. Richard will complete his Internship work with the launch of Crossed-Up through which his work will be under supervision with Bold Crossings Counseling & Consulting in Lawrenceville, GA while he continues to work toward licensure.

CONSENT

Your Signature below indicates that you have read this agreement and consent to treatment by our providers under these terms and conditions. This agreement also serves as an acknowledgement that you understand the HIPPA privacy guidelines. If you would like a copy of this agreement, we will be happy to copy the signed form for you.

Client Signature

Date

Client (Spouse) Signature

Date

Guardian Signature (if client is a minor)

Date