

The Counseling Ministry at Jersey Village Baptist Church

This document is designed to provide you with information about your counselor and to ensure that you understand the professional relationship of counselor and client.

Formal Professional Education and Areas of Competence

I am Licensed as a Professional Counselor and as a Marriage and Family Therapist by the State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists. My areas of competence include individual counseling, marriage and family counseling, group counseling, career counseling and play therapy.

The Therapeutic Process

It is up to each client to determine what their goals are and if they want to reach them. I am here to guide you and your family in this process. We will work together to determine your goals and develop a plan to reach them. Please be aware that problems can become worse before they are improved, or you can feel worse as a result of therapy. As a client you maintain control of yourself and you may end our counseling relationship at any time. I will be supportive of that position. If you are dissatisfied with my work, I will help you find another counselor with whom you might be able to work with more effectively. It is impossible for any counselor to guarantee any specific results regarding your counseling goals. However, we will work together to achieve the best possible results for you.

Techniques

The techniques utilized in your therapy plan will be specific to you and your situation. When counseling I work from a systems perspective and utilize techniques from various theories developed for use with families. This means that I consider the issue and the role the family plays in it, even when I am working with one individual. When I see children in play therapy I use a client centered or Adlerian approach. If at any time you have a question about what I am doing or saying, or about what I am asking of you, please ask me. This is your time. You have the right to choose how you will spend it.

Professional Relationship

While our sessions might be very intimate psychologically, it is important for you to understand that we have a professional relationship rather than a social relationship. Our contacts, other than chance meetings, will be limited to appointments you arrange with me. I will not attend your social gatherings, accept gifts from you, or relate to you in any other way than in the professional context of our counseling sessions. You will be best served if our relationship remains strictly professional and our sessions concentrate exclusively on your concerns. While you might learn much about me as we work together, it is important for you to remember that you are experiencing my professional role.

Confidentiality

Our sessions will remain confidential. I will not release information about you or what we have discussed without your written permission. However, there are some limitations that you need to be aware of. These limitations are listed below.

1. In cases where a counselor has reason to believe that a person may be in imminent danger of harming her/himself or others, that counselor must take appropriate action to prevent that harm.
2. The state of Texas mandates that any person who knows or suspects that a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person is in danger of being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused must report such abuse or suspected abuse to the proper authorities. In addition, counselors must report sexual exploitation of clients by other counselors to the proper authorities.
3. In Texas, confidentiality does not extend to criminal proceedings or to legitimate subpoenas from a judge in civil proceedings. If a court subpoenas counseling records, the counselor is required to provide the information requested.
4. If you are receiving financial assistance from JVBC I will need to communicate with the office staff about your appointment dates.

Session Length, Fees and Attendance

It is my intention to render my services in a professional manner consistent with accepted standards of practice. Our sessions will be 50 minutes in duration and the fee will be \$_____, due at the beginning of the session. I will accept cash or check, but I cannot make change. A \$25 fee will be charged for a returned check and a check will no longer be accepted. Appointments will not be extended beyond any unpaid session, and additional counseling appointments will not be scheduled until payment is received.

Should you be unable to keep an appointment, you agree to notify me at (832-554-0115) 24 hours in advance of the session you must miss. I will extend the same courtesy to you if I must cancel our session. Clients who cancel or miss appointments without 24hrs notice will be charged half the cost of a session. Emergency situations will be considered on a case by case basis.

Contact Information

If you have any complaints or concerns please allow me to resolve the problem with you as we are working together for your well being. You may also contact the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors or Marriage and Family Therapists, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3183, (512) 834-6657.

Consent

I understand that no specific promises have been made to me by this Counselor about the results of treatment, the effectiveness of the procedures used by this Counselor or the number of sessions necessary for therapy to be effective.

I have read, or have had read to me, the issues and points in this brochure. I have discussed those points I did not understand and have had my questions fully answered. I agree to act according to the points covered in this document. I hereby agree to enter into therapy with this Counselor, and to cooperate fully and to the best of my ability as shown by my signature here.

Dasha Taylor

Client's signature

Date

Date

Because of the nature of my work, there will be many times when I am with clients and am not immediately available by telephone. If I do not answer the phone, please leave a message and a number so I can return your call. If there is an emergency and I cannot be reached, please contact your physician, the emergency room at your local hospital or 911. If you are a member of JVBC you may also contact a minister by using their numbers in the church bulletin.

Please put the name and phone number of someone who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

Name _____

Phone _____