

Consultation Group Agreement

Between:
[INSERT NAME] (the Participant)

and

Biblical Counselling UK

The Biblical Counselling UK Consultation Groups enable those in church leadership and pastoral ministry to gain case wisdom in biblical counselling and also to be trained to provide mentoring and/or supervision within their own church setting. This agreement sets out what is expected from Biblical Counselling UK, the Facilitator and the Participant.

PARTICIPANT

1. Biblical Counselling UK is a training and facilitating organisation. As a Participant in a Biblical Counselling UK Consultation Group you are receiving training and advice, *not* supervision. All matters of supervision, pastoral care and safeguarding, both for yourself and those with whom you meet, remain under the authority and direction of your local church leadership.
2. Consultation Group Facilitators will discuss cases and share case wisdom. They, and other Participants, may suggest how a Participant may want to help an individual, but this is intended to serve as helpful advice and not instruction. The responsibility for deciding what pastoral care to give rests with the Participant, under the direction of their local church leadership.
3. Any liability arising from the pastoral care you offer including any counselling style meetings remains the responsibility of yourself and your local church leadership, not Biblical Counselling UK.
4. The primary purpose of the Consultation Group is facilitated discussion between Participants and the sharing of biblical wisdom relevant to each case discussed. Participants should therefore actively engage in group discussion and have thoughtfully prepared in advance any case information to be shared in the Consultation Group.
5. Any information shared within the Consultation Group must be presented in a way that includes relevant details but keeps personal information confidential. "Personal information" refers to information that may be used to determine the identity of those involved in the pastoral situation. This information includes, but is not limited to, the name of individuals receiving pastoral care, the name of other family members, home address, phone number, place of employment or other distinguishable life circumstances or historical events.
6. You agree to keep confidential the specifics of cases discussed within the Consultation Group. The only exceptions to this are where you have concerns about the training and biblical wisdom that is shared by the Group Facilitator or for safeguarding reasons. If the concern is about the Consultation Group Facilitator you should raise your concerns as soon as is practically possible with the Executive Director of Biblical Counselling UK. If your safeguarding concerns relate to your church or people connected to your church, then you must raise those concerns as soon as is practically possible with your church safeguarding lead or safeguarding officer.
7. Participants do not need to specifically inform people with whom they are meeting that they are discussing their case but each Participant should inform those they plan to meet with that wisdom is sought from their minister and from a Biblical Counselling UK Consultation Group in an anonymised way.
8. Biblical Counselling UK expects and requires Participants and Facilitators to take part in the Consultation Group in accordance with Biblical Counselling UK's Equality and Safeguarding policies.
9. Participants are asked to commit to attend all 10 sessions of the Consultation Group which will normally take place over a period of 12 months. The fee is £10 per Participant, per session (2021 introductory rate). The total fee of £100 will be invoiced in advance and, if preferred, can be paid in two, six-monthly instalments. If a Participant is unable to attend a meeting the fee will not usually be refunded. Biblical Counselling UK reserves the right to refund or waive fees, at its own discretion.

BIBLICAL COUNSELLING UK

- 10. Biblical Counselling UK functions as the training and facilitating organisation and commits to providing a Consultation Group where someone with experience of the provision of biblical counsel will facilitate discussion and help Participants to think biblically about the situations being discussed.
- 11. If a Facilitator is unable to host a meeting, eg due to illness, they will either arrange for another BC UK Facilitator to substitute for them, or reschedule the Group Meeting. If this is not possible, Participants will be refunded their fee for that session.
- 12. The Group Facilitator agrees to keep all cases discussed confidential. The only exceptions to this are if:
 - there are safeguarding concerns which the Facilitator needs to discuss with the Safeguarding Lead for Biblical Counselling UK;
 - there are safeguarding concerns that the Facilitator needs to share with relevant authorities, examples include a person under the age of 18 being abused or a perpetrator of abuse against children currently or historically or concerns about abuse against an adult at risk of harm or any other safeguarding concerns needing disclosure to appropriate statutory authorities;
 - there is a legal requirement to share information with statutory bodies, for example an identifiable individual has made specific threats to harm another named individual or individuals that seem genuine (eg an act of terrorism);
 - an identifiable individual has made statements of intention to end his or her life, in this case a disclosure may be made to an appropriate statutory organisation (e.g NHS provider) with the intention of the individual receiving an assessment from the statutory organisation to assess the risk to self;

- legal requirements make it necessary to inform police regarding a plausible threat of terrorism;
 - other legal requirements of UK law require the Facilitator to share information with statutory authorities
- and in each case the Participant has not informed the appropriate authorities where legally bound to do so and/or not passed on this information to those in church leadership to whom they are accountable.
- 13. Occasionally the Group Facilitator may also seek the wisdom of another suitable person with training and experience in biblical counselling and consequently may share some details of cases discussed in the Consultation Group in order to obtain appropriate advice and biblical wisdom.
 - 14. Biblical Counselling UK is committed to keeping personal information safe. A detailed explanation of how personal information is collected, stored, and shared in accordance to the General Data Protection Regulation law is available in the Biblical Counselling UK privacy policy, available on the Biblical Counselling UK website. Participants' information will be stored by Biblical Counselling UK for the duration of their involvement in the Consultation Groups and for one year afterwards.
 - 15. Biblical Counselling UK reserves the right to terminate the Consultation Group if the goals of the Consultation Group are not being met.
 - 16. If the Facilitator of the Group has concerns about the conduct of a Participant or concerns about his/her character that suggest he/she may not be biblically qualified for the pastoral role he/she has, then the facilitator will discuss this with the Executive Director of Biblical Counselling UK and will raise their concerns with the leadership of the Participant's church.

I have read and fully understand the information provided above about the criteria to participate in this Group. I understand that if I breach this agreement I may be asked to leave the Group. By signing this document, I agree to accept the conditions outlined above.

SIGNED:
PARTICIPANT

DATE/...../.....

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF BIBLICAL COUNSELLING UK:

SIGNED:

DATE/...../.....

Name:

Position