

## **National Association of Faith-based Counseling**

Ethics are a legal and a moral responsibility. The best way to stay above reproach and to safeguard yourself from accusations and lawsuits is to adhere to a standard of ethics. Therefore counselors certified with NAFC shall practice and maintain the highest standards of professional conduct and ethics in the ministry and adhere to the following Code of Ethics.

### **Code of Ethics**

1. Counselors will demonstrate respect and Christian love to each client, regardless of race, religion, gender, income, educational level, social status, or sexual orientation. Counselors will conduct themselves in a professional Christ-like manner toward clients.
2. Clients have the personal freedom and responsibility to make their own life choices. The counselor will not make life choices or decisions for the client except when the client is unable to do so and his or her safety is endangered.
3. All forms of sexual behavior, even when a client invites or consents to such activities are strictly forbidden. Sexual behavior is defined as, but not limited to, seductive speech and gestures, as well as physical contact of any sexual nature.
4. It is prudent, wise, and required to have a third party present in the counseling sessions when you have a client of the opposite sex.
5. Unrealistic statements to clients as to the outcome of the counseling process are unethical and unprofessional.
6. Avoid taking clients who are business partners or close personal friends or family, which could impair judgment and compromise the integrity of the counseling process.
7. There are moral and legal laws regarding confidentiality. Counselors will follow all state and federal laws regarding confidentiality in order to protect the privacy and identity of their clients and their situations. The counselor will not reveal information about clients or their identity unless the counselor has been given

informed consent by the client in the form of expressed written permission. Professional information may be conferred with another counselor for the guidance and benefit of the client. All records of persons receiving counseling are to be stored, handled, or disposed of in a way that assures confidentiality of those clients and their situations.

8. These standards of client confidentiality are not designed to be used to avoid appropriate intervention when it is necessary: i.e., when there is evidence of child abuse or abuse of the elderly, the disabled, or the mentally incompetent, evidence of suicidal tendencies, or evidence of intent of a life threatening felony. It is the legal responsibility of each counselor to be aware and informed about the laws on such matters in the state where you provide counseling, and to adhere as such.
9. An individual certified by the National Association of Faith-based Counseling will maintain accountability to their peers, their pastor, the National Association of Faith-based Counseling, and to God. For certification to remain valid, it must be renewed annually. An individual may not represent themselves as a counselor certified by the National Association of Faith-based Counseling without authorized and valid certification.
10. An individual certified by the National Association of Faith-based Counseling should prayerfully prepare themselves before attempting to provide counseling and know when they are unfit or inadequate to provide counseling. Certified graduates should also know when it is prudent to refer clients to someone else when the individual or situation is beyond your ability to help.
11. An individual voluntarily annuls their certification with the National Association of Faith-based Counseling by not adhering to its 'Code of Ethics', or by not being in submission and in good standing with their pastor, or by Biblically disqualifying themselves from ministry as determined by the National Association of Faith-based Counseling or their church governing board.
12. An individual voluntarily annuls their certification with the National Association of Faith-based Counseling and may be subject to legal proceedings from the state of residence by not following state laws concerning religious counseling practices and representation of services.