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Marriage Counseling Agreement, Guidelines and Confidentiality

Coming to the conclusion that marriage counseling is needed is not an easy decision. In fact, counseling usually results from numerous encounters of disappointment and helplessness. So it's not unusual to experience episodes of throwing blame on one another out of anger and frustration; instead of, seeking ways to mend broken fences or hearts. This is why counseling is so critical in repairing marriages that are seemingly broken, unfixable or damaged. Counseling is designed for reaching common ground between couples for the purpose of discovering ways to function in unison. The most important question to ask any married couple is: "Do you want this marriage?" Based upon the answer received, a decision can be made on how to move forward with counseling.

Sustaining a marriage is a process that requires gut-wrenching sacrifices, level-headed commitments and around the clock communication. All three of these **MUST WORK** in harmony to sustain a marriage.

1. Commitments – embracing and agreeing upon decisions made to benefit one another
2. Communication – speaking with one another with the intent of not hurting each other
3. Counseling – the method by which a bridge is created to sustain a marriage or relationship. **THE BRIDGE HAS TO BUILT!**

These are my three pet "C's" to a successful marriage! If implemented, understood, and practiced daily, your marriage can sustain the test of times as well as the unexpected encounters of life. Marriage counseling creates a pathway for unspeakable joy, laughter, and love by practicing things that work.

Here are the Guidelines:

- ✓ During the evaluation and interview segment of counseling, the couple must establish mutual goals.
- ✓ The couple **MUST ATTEND** scheduled meetings. If for any reason, one or the other cannot attend, a notification **MUST** be given an hour in advance for rescheduling purposes, if necessary. **I DO NOT BELIEVE IN APPLYING CANCELLATION FEES!**
- ✓ While in session the couple will be sharing personal, confidential, and sensitive information; therefore, it is critical that an agreement be reach between the parties, that all information shared is confidential, sensitive, and personal.

The following Confidentially Agreement was constructed by Vincent E. Haywood, Sr, manager of 17andBeyond CM&C, LLC, a coaching, mentoring, and counseling service for graduating teens and young adults. Vincent is also a licensed/ordained minister, which qualifies him to provide counseling services for married or soon to be married couples in the State of Texas. The Confidentially Agreement goes as follows:

The statement below is a Confidentially Agreement which I, Vincent E. Haywood, Sr requires to be read and agreed upon by couples who are requesting my services for marriage counseling. The sole purpose of this agreement is for protecting information afforded to me or shared with me by my clients during their sessions. Furthermore, it is forbidden to be used outside of our sessions; for example, in court cases or subpoenas requested by clients for the purpose of using in subsequent adversarial or collateral situations. However, this is not a binding document or contract, but emphasizes is being placed on the importance of protecting the confidentiality of the agreement, thereby reduces any chances that information from sessions can be used as evidence against one or the other in court proceedings.

Note: This form may also be adapted for use in family or individual counseling as well.

Confidentiality Agreement for Couples

This is an agreement between the interested parties that neither party shall for any reason attempt to subpoena my testimony or my records to be presented in a deposition or court hearing of any kind for any reason, such as a divorce case.

Both parties acknowledge that the goal of counseling, either individual or married couples, is for the sole purpose of resolving agreed upon issues and that the process of counseling requires openness, truthfulness, and commitment during the sessions.

Therefore it is understood by both parties that if they request my services as a counselor, they are expected not to use information given to me during the counseling process against the other party in a judicial setting of any kind, be it civil, criminal, or circuit. The objective behind counseling is ALWAYS RECONCILIATION, not divorce.

The signatures below reflect that the parties agree to the terms set forth above.

My signature indicates that I have read, fully understand, and fully agree to give my informed consent and compliance with the guidelines and agreement before starting couples counseling.

I, _____, will honor these standards. _____
Date

I, _____, will honor these standards. _____
Date