

Keep the Heart Biblical Counseling
INFORMED CONSENT AGREEMENT

This document must be signed and returned in advance of participation in any group counseling sessions. Once you have an informed consent agreement on file, it will not be necessary to resubmit the form for future group counseling sessions.

Welcome to group biblical counseling through *Keep the Heart*. These sessions are designed to inspire growth and healing by applying principles from the Word of God. The goal in providing biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31) and in a way that will guide you to be equipped to handle matters wisely for a good outcome (Prov. 16:20).

Biblical Counseling Uses the Bible as the source of guidance and instruction.

Your counseling sessions will be based upon the Bible. The Word of God provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). The counseling that you will receive will be based upon biblical principles. *Francie Taylor is not trained or licensed as a psychotherapist or mental health professional, and she does not follow the methods of such specialists*. This is not a criticism of these professionals. It is merely a statement of fact. Biblical counseling is not psychotherapy, and it is vital that every counselee is aware of this fact.

Other Counsel: If you have significant legal, financial, medical, or other technical questions you should seek advice from an independent professional. *Keep the Heart* does not provide legal advice. Francie Taylor is not responsible for, nor shall he be liable for any physical, mental, or medical condition of any counselee.

Counselor's Credentials: *Keep the Heart LLC* is not a licensed clinic in Florida or any other state. Francie Taylor is certified through the ACBC (Association of Certified Biblical Counselors) and engages in ongoing studies related to the field of biblical counseling. Francie does not counsel psychiatric or biological cases and does not dispense medication.

Confidentiality – Confidentiality is an important aspect of counseling, and your information will be kept private in most cases. There are situations, however, in which the counselor may believe that it would be wise or mandated (biblically or legally) to share certain information with others. It is not possible to list every circumstance where this may be needed, but common examples are listed below. *(Please initial next to each item below to acknowledge your understanding and agreement)*

1. When a counselor needs consult with counselor or pastor for assistance with challenging case situations. Initials: _____

2. When there is a reasonable concern that someone may be harmed unless others intervene. Initials: _____

3. When abuse or another crime may have been committed. Initials: _____

4. When the counselor is legally required to provide information or testimony in a legal proceeding. Initials: _____

Please be assured that the preference is not to disclose personal information to others. In most cases, other than consulting with a fellow biblical counselor for additional insights or guidance (without identifying you by name), your case will be kept confidential. 6

Biblical Counseling and Psychotropic Medication: Biblical counselors do not offer medical advice including advice on withdrawing from medications. If you have questions regarding medications, or wish to discontinue using medications, please seek the advice of competent medical professionals before changing or discontinuing any medication. Please provide your initials indicating that you understand/accept this. ____

Counseling Fee: The cost for group counseling is $27 per session, payable at the time of booking through the website portal at *Keep the Heart*.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, you may reschedule your appointment by contacting Francie at francietaylor@keeptheheart.com .If you are unable to reschedule, your appointment payment will be refunded by request. No refunds will be issued for appointments cancelled less than 24 hours in advance except in case of emergency. No refunds will be issued after the counseling session has been provided.

In the event Francie needs to reschedule your appointment, she will collaborate with you to find the most convenient time according to your schedule.

Church Involvement: Because we believe the local church has a vital role in the lives of believers (Hebrews 3:13-13; 10:24-25), counselees are asked to commit to attending faithfully their worship services while receiving counseling.

Mandatory Acknowledgement and Informed Consent

By checking the boxes below and signing this form, the applicant agrees to the following terms:

1. [ ] Non-clinical Nature of Services: It is understood that *Keep the Heart* provides religious, scriptural, and biblical discipleship sessions. These sessions are not a substitute for clinical mental health therapy, psychiatric care, or licensed psychological counseling.

2. [ ] Licensure Status: It is acknowledged that *Keep the Heart* is not a state-licensed agency and that Francie Taylor is a certified biblical counselor, not a licensed therapist or healthcare professional in the state of Florida.

3. [ ] Scope of Care: If needs fall outside the scope of biblical mentoring, the client will be encouraged to seek outside professional care. *Keep the Heart* does not provide emergency clinical crisis intervention.

4. [ ] Privacy Notice: Consent is given to submit this confidential information online to *Keep the Heart* for the sole purpose of session preparation.

Conclusion & Signature:

This counseling service is a product of *Keep the Heart LLC*. By signing this document, you also agree that you understand that you are purchasing a service from a certified biblical counselor, not a licensed therapist or medical doctor. You hold Francie Taylor and *Keep the Heart LLC* harmless for any perceived damage by the counseling you receive.

Your signature below indicates that you understand all the material presented and fully agree to comply with the foregoing, and you consent to the disclosure of certain communications as provided above and waive any legal privileges that may apply.

Name (please print):_____

Signature: _____

Date: _____