



Informed Consent Statement
Richard J. Vantrease, Min.D., LMFT

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your counselor. This information is designed to let you know about my educational and professional background, to let you know about our professional relationship, and to assure you that I am committed to providing you with quality professional counseling.

Education, Credentials and Experience

I have been a Florida Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist for over twenty years in my work with individuals, couples, and families. In addition, I have a Doctorate in Pastoral Care and Counseling from the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. With these licensure and educational credentials I am able to offer the best of two worlds: psychology and spirituality to those who desire such a combination. I am able to offer either one or both depending upon your wants and needs.

Therapeutic Approach

I am interested in integrating your spiritual values and beliefs into the counseling process to the extent that you desire. Helping you find balance in mind, body, spirit and relationships is one way to restore your well-being.

It is important that you are actively involved in the counseling process. Your input is essential in establishing treatment goals, desired changes, number of sessions, and other pertinent aspects of counseling. Periodically, we will evaluate your progress and, as needed, re-design your goals.

Confidentiality

I regard the information you share with me with the greatest respect, so I want to be as clear as possible about how it will be handled. Generally, I will tell no one what you tell me. The privacy and confidentiality of our conversations, and my records, are your privilege and are protected by state law and my profession's ethical principles, in all but a few circumstances. If there is a need to share information in your record, you will first be consulted and asked to sign a release of information form authorizing a transfer of information. The form will specify the information, which you give me permission to release to the other party, and will limit the time period during which the information may be released. You can revoke your permission at any time by simply giving me written notice, and it is revoked from that day forward.

There are the exceptions in which I cannot guarantee confidentiality, legally

and/or ethically: (1) when I believe you intend to harm yourself or another person; and, (2) when I believe a child, elder person or vulnerable adult has been or is in danger of being abused or neglected. In rare circumstances, professional counselors can be ordered by a judge to release information. Otherwise, I will not tell anyone anything about your treatment, diagnosis, history, or even that you are a client without your full knowledge and consent, including family members. Please be aware that Samaritan utilizes Quality Control Best Practices to ensure both confidentiality and service review.

Explanation of Dual Relationships

It is important for you to be assured that we have a professional relationship and not a social one. Our contact will be limited to sessions. I will not accept friend requests for social media. Because I respect your privacy, I will not speak to you in public, unless you speak first. Because ours is a professional relationship I cannot accept monetary gifts.

Cancellation Policy

If you are unable to keep an appointment, please call 941-926-2959 to cancel or reschedule at least 24 hours in advance. If I do not receive this advanced notice and you do not have an emergency, you are responsible for no show or late cancelation fees. Please note that insurance companies, churches and Client Assistance Funds (CAF) do not pay for missed sessions.

Length of Sessions

Our sessions are 45 to 50 minutes in length and are rendered in a manner consistent with the highest ethical and professional standards.

Emergencies

If your situation is an emergency, you should call 911 at any time of day or night. In Sarasota, crisis assistance is available by calling or going to Bayside Center for Behavioral Health at 800-764-8477 or 941-917-7760 or Coastal Behavioral Healthcare's 24-hour Crisis Stabilization Unit at 941-364-9355. In Manatee County, you may call or go to Centerstone Emergency Psychiatric Center at 941-782-4617 or Suncoast Behavioral Health Center at 941-251-5000.

Telephone Availability

You can leave a non-emergency message at 941-926-2959 during business hours, from 8AM to 5PM, Monday through Friday. I will make every reasonable effort to return your call within 24 hours. You also may call on holidays or weekends to leave a message to cancel an appointment.

Vacation and Illness

I will, from time to time, be out of contact due to such things as continuing education seminars, vacations, family emergencies and illness. I will give you as much advance notice as possible. If you want to meet with a therapist during my absence, arrangements may be made in advance or by calling the office at 941-926-2959. Please remember if an emergency arises to dial 911 or go to your nearest hospital emergency room.

Complaint Procedures

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of my work, please let me know immediately. I want to provide you with the best possible counseling services. If you think you have been treated unfairly or unethically, by me or any other counselor, and cannot resolve the problem with me, you may contact Rev. Rick Howell, Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast at 941-926-2959, 3224 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, Florida 34239. You can submit a complaint or receive clarification of your rights from Rev. Howell.