

Bridge To Life Ministries

Don E. Smith

17194 Van Wagoner Rd.
Spring Lake, MI 49456
616-846-1051 or 1(800)716-3677

PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Welcome to this office. I trust that your decision to begin counseling will eventually be one that is personally rewarding and beneficial.

My counseling is considered "pastoral counseling." I am not a licensed marriage counselor. Pastoral counseling means I provide spiritual guidance based on biblical principles I learned in my pastoral training. I have been ordained by a recognized denomination. I received my B.A. in Biblical Studies at Big Sky Bible College in Lewistown, Montana. I was working on a Masters degree in counseling from Grace Seminary until the program was moved to Colorado. This training was under the direct teaching of Dr. Larry Crabb, Ph.D and Dr. Dan Allender, Ph.D. Both of these men are well known Christian psychologists authoring such books as *Inside Out*, *The Marriage Builder*, *Connecting*, *The Wounded Heart*, *Bold Love*, and *The Healing Path*.

It should be noted that I understand **people and personal problems** and use an **approach to counseling** similar to what is reflected in the books *The Wounded Heart*, *How We Love*, *The Healing Path*, *The Sacred Romance*, *Wild At Heart* and *Captivating*.

I have been involved in counseling marriages since 1983. My practice consists of counseling individuals and couples of all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. My training and experience has equipped me to deal with a wide range of personal and emotional struggles, including marital conflict, sexual addictions, co-dependency, physical or emotional abuse.

I can assure you that as a trained counselor, I will strive to maintain the strictest ethical standards of confidentiality. If during the course of counseling, I deem it necessary to go to others regarding your situation, I will do so only with your written permission. However, if you do not grant me permission, I reserve the right to terminate our counseling relationship. As we work together, any exceptions to confidentiality will be identified as they arise.

It is important for you to know that there are **legal exceptions to confidentiality** where I would be required by law to break confidentiality by contacting the proper authorities. These are situations in which you are at serious risk to either harm yourself or others, such as in the case of potential suicide or homicide, child abuse and neglect, or an inability to care for yourself. These legal exceptions will be determined by my judgment.

I also have direct contact with other professionals that include psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, social workers, pastors, family physicians, and medical specialists. Again, complete confidentiality will be maintained.

In order for your counseling to be successful, you are expected to be an honest and active participant. You may seek a **second opinion** from another professional counselor or **terminate** counseling at any time. Your personal file including all tests and sessions notes will be destroyed 2 years after counseling is terminated or completed.

In a professional relationship, sexual intimacy between a counselor and a client is never appropriate. If sexual intimacy occurs, it should be reported along with any other concerns regarding my services to:

Department of Commerce
Health Investigation Division
PO Box 30018
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-9196

The fee for my counseling is \$75.00 for a 50-minute session. Full payment is requested at the end of each counseling session unless other arrangements have been made. If a client fails to follow through with payments, it should be noted that it is my ethical prerogative to terminate counseling until the client's payments are up-to-date. My counseling is not covered by insurance carriers.

If you have a financial hardship and are unable to pay the full cost of counseling, a fee adjustment can be made. The primary considerations for adjusting the fee are income level, and special circumstances. You may discuss you specific needs with me or the office manager to determine your fee. Some churches may provide financial assistance to help their members receive services from Bridge To Life.

Your scheduled appointment time has been reserved exclusively for you. Since I cannot fill that time with other clients, appointments canceled less than **24 hours** in advance for reasons other than sudden illness or sudden hazardous weather will be billed for one-half of a session. It should be noted that it is my ethical prerogative to terminate counseling if a client develops a regular pattern of canceling or failing to show up for sessions.

Should you need to contact me during any time outside our regularly scheduled sessions, you can call and leave a message at the Bridge To Life office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. My office number is 616-846-1051. During evenings and weekends I may be contacted at my home **for emergencies only**. My home phone number is 231-780-2572.

Should you have any further questions regarding me or my practice that have not been answered above, please feel free to bring them to my attention during our sessions so we can discuss them.

I understand I am not receiving licensed counseling. In consideration for the services provided, I, for myself, my family, and heirs, herewith release Don E. Smith, Bridge To Life Ministries, its Officers, Board, and Employees from any liability in connection with my participation.

I attest that I have read all the information on this Professional Disclosure Statement and that I understand the conditions as stated above, and I agree to receive "pastoral" counseling under these conditions.

Client Signature

Date