

# Valley Christian Counseling Couples Counseling Intake Packet

Welcome to Valley Christian Counseling! To better serve you, please thoroughly review the following and fill out all applicable information. We know this may feel like a lot, but know that your therapist will review the important highlights and any questions you may have during your first session. All information you provide will be kept confidential. Leave blank any questions you would rather not answer at this time.

## Client Intake Information

**\*\*\*To be completed by EACH partner/spouse\*\*\***

Please share what brings you to counseling at this time? Please include current issues, how long they have been going on, and what you are hoping to accomplish through counseling.

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Are you looking for court-related services? If yes, please explain:

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## Contact and Basic Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it OK to contact you and leave messages at the listed phone # regarding appointments?  YES  NO

## Employment/Vocation and Education

Employment/vocation status and title: \_\_\_\_\_

If employed, how long have you worked here? \_\_\_\_\_

How satisfied are you in your vocation/employment? \_\_\_\_\_

Highest grade/education level completed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Faith/Spirituality

Faith/Religious Orientation: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you part of a church or spiritual/religious community? If so, please share what/where: \_\_\_\_\_

What, if any, spiritual practices are important to you or do you regularly engage in? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Relationship Information**

What is your relationship status? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been in your current relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your strengths as a couple? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What are your weaknesses as a couple? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you ever feel unsafe with your partner YES NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any physical violence in your relationship, either past or present? YES NO

If yes, please share when and how often this happens: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any past, present, or impending significant issues in your relationship or family. Write "R" if it is in your current relationship and "F" in your larger family:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affair/infidelity/cheating ___       | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal problems___   | <input type="checkbox"/> Debilitating injury/chronic illness___ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical or sexual abuse ___         | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial crisis___ | <input type="checkbox"/> Death ___                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional or psychological abuse ___ | <input type="checkbox"/> Addiction___        | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempted/completed suicide___         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently relocating ___            | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating disorder___  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other_____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce___                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental disorder___  |   |

Please provide additional information about any issues you checked. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please list anyone who lives with you:

Name	Age	Relationship to Client

Have you been married or in a long-term serious relationship previously? If so, how many times and for how long?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Satisfaction in Relationship**

In the below chart, please check the box to the right of each relationship category that best describes **how satisfied you feel** in your current relationship. **Leave blank if it does not apply to your relationship status.**

*Note: This is adapted from the Couple Satisfaction Checklist 2003 © Douglas Tilley, LCSW*

	Very Dissatisfied	Moderately Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Check top 3 areas you want to change
Closeness, Openness, Authenticity							
Expression of Affection and Care							
Sexual Intimacy							
Handling Conflicts and Arguments							
Expression of Anger or Frustration							
Handling Finances							
Handling Household Tasks							
Recreation/Social Life							
Degree of Respect for Partner							
Overall Satisfaction with Relationship							

**History and Health Information**

**Mental Health**

Are you seeing any other mental health professional(s) at this time (psychiatrist, counselor, etc.)? YES NO

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been to counseling before? If so, what was helpful (or not) about it? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been hospitalized for psychological problems? YES NO

Please list any family history of trauma, addiction, or mental health issues:

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**Physical and Medical Health**

How would you rate your current overall health?  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

What is your current level of physical activity?

Little to no exercise  A few times a month  A few times a week  Nearly everyday

Are you having any issues with sleep (e.g. sleeping too little, nightmares, etc.)? If so, please describe:

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Do you have a primary care doctor? If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any current or persistent medical issues:

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Please list any medications or supplements that you are currently taking. For each, please include the reason for each and how long you have taken each.

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**Substance Use and Addictive Behaviors**

Please list any substances that you have used or currently use (including caffeine, tobacco, and alcohol). For each, share if it is past or current use, the amount and frequency of use, and the last time used:

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Please list any behaviors that are potentially addictive for you (e.g. pornography, gambling, gaming, etc.). Please list if behavior is current or past, and how frequently you engage in the behavior.

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**Safety Screener**

Have you ever attempted suicide or intentionally harmed yourself?  YES  NO

Do you currently have thoughts about suicide or harming yourself?  YES  NO

Do you currently have a desire to harm or kill someone else?  YES  NO

In the past, have you ever seriously considered suicide, harming yourself, OR harming someone else?  YES  NO

If yes for any of the above, please explain:

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**Trauma Assessment**

Have you ever experienced or witnessed any of the following? Please mark "V" if you were a victim and "W" if you were a witness.

Physical abuse \_\_\_\_

Sexual abuse \_\_\_\_

Emotional/mental abuse \_\_\_\_

Neglect/abandonment \_\_\_\_

Community violence \_\_\_\_

Natural disaster \_\_\_\_

Other (please explain below) \_\_\_\_

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On a scale of 1-10 (1 being very little or not at all and 10 being multiple times a day), how often do you have thoughts about any of these traumatic experience/s? (1-10): \_\_\_\_

**Is there anything else (not covered above) that you want your therapist to know before starting counseling?**

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# Valley Christian Counseling

## Couples Informed Consent

### Overview of Couples Counseling Process

You have taken a brave and positive step in deciding to seek therapy as a couple, and it is my honor and privilege to journey alongside you in this process. I am currently an Associate Licensed Counselor (ALC) in the state of Alabama, under the supervision of Nancy DeHaas, LPC-S. My approach to couples counseling involves cultivating a strong working alliance with each of you based on trust and vulnerability in which we will identify and work on your goals as a couple. I believe that true and lasting change in relationships occurs as each partner "tunes in" to the needs and wounds of both themselves and each other, and practices new ways to productively relate based on these "heart-level" aspects. Also important for you to know is that I am informed and guided by a Christian worldview of personal and spiritual formation, and I will integrate that into the counseling process to the extent that you desire.

### "The Client" in Couples Counseling

I treat you as the couple as "the client," meaning that we are working on your goals for your relationship and I will seek what is best for your relationship overall in alignment with those goals. However, in this process, I may meet with each of you individually at times, and at times we may focus more on partner or the other in any given session. Since the couple is "the client," though, and not each individual partner, I will use my best judgement to determine if anything shared in individual sessions needs to be shared with the partner for the sake of your overall relationship and goals. We will certainly do this gently and collaboratively, but if there is anything that you absolutely do not want your partner to know, you might be best served to discuss this with a different individual therapist.

### Sessions

Therapy appointments typically last for 50 minutes. Longer sessions may also be available upon advanced request. We will collaboratively determine the number and frequency of sessions based on your individual needs.

### Cancellation Policy

A scheduled appointment means that time is reserved only for you. If an appointment is missed or cancelled without 48 hours' notice, I reserve the right to charge you a missed/cancelled appointment fee equal to the agreed-upon session rate.

### Appointment Confirmation Reminders

Appointment confirmation reminders will be sent before each of your sessions. However, appointments are ultimately your responsibility, so please set self-reminders as needed, as it cannot be guaranteed that appointment reminders will reach you.

### Emergencies

If you are unable to reach our office during normal business hours and are experiencing a crisis or medical emergency please call 911 (or 988 for mental health, substance use, and suicide crises), go to your nearest emergency room, or contact Crisis Services of North Alabama at 256-716-1000, and then alert me at your earliest convenience.

### Consultation with Other Professionals

Consultations are sometimes requested by other professionals involved in your care. If you or another professional that cares for you requests a consultation, I reserve the right to bill at the hourly rate for consultation services, including any prep and travel time.

**Communication and Boundaries**

If you need to contact me, please call Valley Christian Counseling Center and leave a message with the receptionist or at the appropriate extension. I will periodically check messages, and return your call as soon as possible.

If we ever see each other outside the therapy office, I will not acknowledge you first. This is purely out of respect for your privacy. However, you are welcome to acknowledge me, and if you do, I will be more than happy to speak with you in public, though we will not engage in any therapeutic or lengthy discussions. I also will not respond to any attempts to connect via social media or any other method of contact outside of those formally mentioned above and agreed upon. This is all to maintain a healthy and clear therapeutic relationship.

**Records**

Records will be kept based on your therapy sessions, and may include information regarding your reason for seeking therapy, a description of the impact your problems may be having on your life, your treatment progress and goals, your medical and social history, your billing records, and any reports received from other clinicians.

**You have the right to review your records at any time.** However, it is recommended that the records be reviewed in the presence of your therapist before viewing them individually. A fee may be applied to the request of your records. Your records will be electronically stored and are compliant to all HIPPA requirements.

**Release of Information**

Valley Christian Counseling is not a HIPAA covered entity; however, unless you grant written permission, we will neither inform anyone that you are receiving services, nor will we disclose personal information provided (see Limits to Confidentiality below for exceptions to this). If you would like for information from your clinical record to be sent to a third party (e.g., physician, attorney, etc.) you must **both** first sign a Release of Authorization.

**Limits to Confidentiality**

The contents of our sessions are strictly confidential, except for the following limits:

1. As an Associate Licensed Counselor, I regularly consult with my supervisor about cases to promote the best care as possible for my clients. Additionally, I may request permission to record our session or for my supervisor to observe it. In such cases, I will ask your permission beforehand, and you have the right to deny recording/observation.
2. Occasional consultations with other mental health professionals about a case are helpful or even necessary in order to provide quality care. We make every effort to ensure your confidentiality during this process.
3. If you or a minor in your care are a harm to yourself or others, I have a legal duty to report in order to prioritize your and others' safety.
4. If I have reasonable suspicion that abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult is occurring, I am required to report that to the appropriate authorities.
5. Legal scenarios: I may be required or legally permitted to disclose information without your consent or authorization in the event of:
  - a. Requests made from a court order.
  - b. In the event I become the defendant in a case filed against me I have the right to release privileged information that may be relevant to my defense.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Client Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist Signature

# Valley Christian Counseling Financial Agreement

The following information explains Valley Christian Counseling's current financial policies. Please review and sign this form to indicate that you have read and agree with the information presented.

## Reimbursement/Insurance Coverage

Your therapist does not accept insurance. However, you may submit to your insurance for reimbursement as your therapist would be considered an Out-of-Network Provider. Your therapist does not determine how your insurance will reimburse counseling services - that is between you and your insurance company. Your therapist's fees are subject to change and you will have advance notice of those changes as they arise.

## Methods of Payment

We ask that you pay in full upon the time of services, unless previously agreed upon by you and your therapist. We accept most forms of payment, including cash, check, or credit card.

## Unpaid Balance

If you accrue an unpaid balance, we ask that you make arrangements to pay the balance within 30 days. In the event that we cannot reach you to collect payment, Valley Christian Counseling may pursue reimbursement by submitting a claim to small claims court, or by hiring a collections agency. Payment plans may be offered when requested with approval from the director of VCC. Confidential information may be shared in claims court or to collections agencies as needed.

## Late Cancellation/No Show Fees

If cancellations have not been made within 48 hours of the appointment or the client did not show up for the session, the client is subject to a no-show fee equal to the normal session fee of \$110. Exceptions are made in cases of emergencies. Grace is often offered, especially in unforeseen circumstances. Your therapist asks for communication, and in response, fees may be waived at your therapist's discretion.

## Court Related Fees

Clients who require court related services can expect a rate of \$200 per hour. Court related work can include, but is not limited to, consultations, phone calls, travel time, depositions, and time spent at court. There is a minimum retainer fee of \$1000 to appear/testify in court. Payment must be received 48 hours prior to the court appearance. Subpoenas must be received within 48-hour notice or the client may be subject to an additional charge of \$200. If a court date is rescheduled with less than 72 business hours, your therapist reserves the right to charge an additional fee of \$300. It is important to note that any given testimony may not result in your favor. In the event that you lose your case, you will still be responsible for court related fees.

## Statement of Understanding

I certify that I understand the above statement and I agree to its terms. By signing below, I am stating that I have read and agree with the financial fees set by my practitioner. I understand that Valley Christian Counseling and/or my practitioner reserve the right to adjust or lower that fee on as needed basis.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Client Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist Signature

## Valley Christian Counseling Client Rights

As a client at Valley Christian Counseling, **you can expect:**

- Humane care and treatment, with respect and consideration
- Privacy and confidentiality when seeking or receiving services, except in the case of life-threatening situations or conditions
- Confidentiality of your health records
- Accurate information concerning diagnostic impressions, treatment, and risks
- Active participation in decisions regarding your own treatment
- Accessible information regarding the scope and availability of services
- Information about any legal reporting requirements regarding any aspect of screening or treatment
- A copy of your records upon request and written authorization
- Ability to file a complaint with the director of VCC regarding any concerns related to the privacy, confidentiality or security of your medical record
- Competent treatment in a respectful environment that acknowledges your dignity and worth
- To gain knowledge regarding strategies and therapy techniques used to aid in your treatment
- Participation in establishing and reestablishing goals throughout therapy
- Option to participate in or refrain from services (except when mandated)
- Ability to request referrals for alternative service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Client Name

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_