

Confidentiality and Informed Consent

Informed consent requires that you freely assent to the pastoral counseling relationship and process. To do that you must know what is expected of you and what you can expect from the Pastoral Counselor with respect to confidentiality, payment, your rights, and other important areas of the relationship.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IN THE WAY OF CONFIDENTIALITY

- When you meet with Pastor Buono, you can expect that your communication will be confidential, unless you indicate that you are a danger to yourself or someone else. In that case, your safety and/or the safety of the other person will take precedence over your right to privacy.
- Pastor Buono participates in individual supervision with a licensed, clinical mental health provider who is also an ordained member of the clergy. His supervisor is Dr. Carroll Ohlde, 5735 SW Clarion Lakes Way, Topeka, KS 66610.

- From time to time you may be asked for permission to either audio or video tape a session. This is part of the supervision process.
- Pastor Buono, as a licensed therapist, is a mandated reporter for child abuse. You should know that unless the fact of abuse is revealed during a private, structured service of confession it will be reported in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A PATIENT

You have a number of rights as a patient. Patient is a Latin word meaning “one who suffers.”

- You have every right to expect that when Pastor Buono believes that your issue is beyond his professional expertise, that he will suggest a referral to the appropriate helping professional.
- You have the right to be an active part of your own healing journey and to discuss with him any questions or concerns you have about the process.
- You have the right to see the case notes he prepares. You have the right to know that those notes are maintained and safeguarded to protect your privacy.

- You have the right to terminate counseling at anytime. However, you should know that it is often true in counseling that it gets worse before it gets better. Theologically, before we experience the joy of Easter we first experience the suffering of Christ on Good Friday.
- You have the right to file a grievance over the care you have received. Such a grievance should be made to the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, 712 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66603, (785-296-3240).

COUNSELING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Pastor Buono will work with children and youth under the age of 18 with the consent of the responsible parent(s) or guardians. This consent includes the understanding that unless the minor reveals information that would put him or her at risk or someone else at risk, all information disclosed will be treated as confidential and not shared with the parents with out the consent of the minor child or youth.

INTERACTION WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PROFESSIONALS

The Pastoral Counselor is not a medical doctor. Many mental illnesses have a physical basis and you will want to consult with your physician. Pastor Buono will request, as needed, your permission to speak with your health care provider or other professional (e.g., a counselor or attorney). You have the right to refuse such permission. However, you should know Pastor Buono may not be able to provide the best possible care if his access to all available information is limited.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Pastor Buono is available after hours as needed for emergency consultation. He can be reached at his cell phone – (785) 633-4857. In the event that you face a situation in which you are contemplating suicide or any situation in which you feel a loss of control and you cannot contact Pastor Buono you are encouraged and expected to seek immediate help through the emergency room at either St. Francis Medical Center or Stormont Vail Regional Medical Center.

WHAT'S EXPECTED OF YOU IN THE WAY OF PAYMENT

As of January 2009, the Pastoral Counselor provides counseling as a ministry of the community of faith. Services are provided without expectation of direct reimbursement. Should you desire to make a financial gift to the church for services provided please make the gift to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. *Pastor Buono will personally accept nominal gifts only.*

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A Few Words About Confidentiality, Payment, and Informed Consent

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PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
TOPEKA, KANSAS
