

COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AS A HOPE ALIVE GROUP COUNSELLOR[®]

Privilege and Responsibility; Honour and Joy

A. Privilege:

- 1) I acknowledge and accept the privilege of counselling people deeply damaged by childhood mistreatment and pregnancy loss, using the Hope Alive method. With it I may learn to know, love, serve and grow.
- 2) I will adhere to the *My Declaration for Life* statement of ethics or an International Hope Alive Counsellor's Association (IHACA) approved alternative ethical statement. I will display my ethics prominently for counselees to see. Since the medium is the message, I must live a life that is consistent with these ethics.
- 3) Together with my facilitators and counselees, I will sign the *Principles of Commitment to Hope Alive Treatment* (2004) and adhere to each provision, noting and discussing any exceptions.
- 4) I will encourage each person to continue knowing, growing and using what they have learned for the benefit of others. I will avoid creating dependencies.
- 5) I will not use my position of privilege to recruit subjects for research or convert people to a particular philosophy or religion. I will not take advantage of my counselees' dependency and trust for any kind of personal or financial gratification.
- 6) I will promote the health of each person, body, mind and spirit, with whom I have an actual or implied agreement to counsel.
- 7) My aim is to help restore as much as possible the individual to his or her original God-given design and purpose. When indicated, I will be a witness of God's good news, treat the sick, set free those enslaved and defend the poor.

B. Responsibility:

To Counselees

- 1) Before counselling, I will obtain informed consent, carefully providing each counsellee with knowledge of the process, hazards and benefits of Hope Alive group counselling.
- 2) I will carefully evaluate each potential counsellee and form an independent opinion of each referral based on the damage, difficulties and needs of the individual, not being influenced by what is politically correct or socially approved or family coerced.
- 3) I will make a commitment to each counsellee to continue working with them until they are; healthier, or deceased, or voluntarily withdrawn from counselling, or moved away, or referred elsewhere.
- 4) Before beginning group counselling, I will obtain a physician's opinion to determine if my counselees have an illness or condition that makes Hope Alive group counselling inappropriate.
- 5) I will carefully follow all the Hope Alive Manual to direct my counselling.
- 6) I will use the best Hope Alive techniques available, ensuring they are always backed by good research, sound theory and Christian principles.
- 7) I will control my group counselling by ethics, rules, and tasks rather than by personal influence, coercion, or manipulation. I will concentrate the counselling process to within the group.

- 8) I will not use counselling sessions for religious exercises, but I will respond to counsellee's spiritual needs, help them clarify their faith, answer questions about my Christian faith and refer for spiritual counselling when and if it is indicated.
- 9) Knowing there is no excuse for bad manners, I will always be prompt, considerate and courteous with my counsellees.

To Colleagues

- 10) I will form and maintain contact with a network of professionals from whom I can seek assistance or advice for any difficulties that arise in group counselling, after I have first spoken to my supervisor (except in emergent situations).
- 11) With the consent of the individual I assessed, I will report to the professional person who made the referral a summary of my findings and my recommendations.
- 12) I will accept supervision and corrective feedback and seek such from the Hope Alive Council of Supervisors and Trainers, (COSAT) approved sources.
- 13) I will support my colleagues, providing encouragement, information and corrective feedback when necessary.
- 14) If I learn of any unprofessional conduct of a Hope Alive group counsellor or know they are straying from the program in the Hope Alive manual, or they are doing inadequate counselling, I will notify the Hope Alive supervisor in my area.
- 15) In order to avoid gossip, sub-grouping, innuendo and false reports, I am prepared, together with my supervisor, to face my colleague and discuss my concerns about their professional conduct.

To the World

- 16) My responsibility to my individual counsellees outweighs conflicting responsibilities to any state agency, therefore I will always treat and protect my counsellees and safeguard confidential information, especially when the state considers my efforts for them are not warranted because of their "poor quality of life."
- 17) I will adhere to the principles of the laws in my country regarding confidentiality and the reporting of abuse, neglect, potential homicide and possible suicide, but resist any state agency if I feel the break-up or control of my counsellee's family or their enforced hospitalisation is unwarranted.
- 18) Recognising the vast number of men, women and children deeply damaged by child mistreatment and pregnancy loss, I will work hard and urgently to counsel as many people as I can as quickly and as effectively as I can, God being my helper.
- 19) Whether near at hand or far away, I will work hard and urgently to prevent the problems I strive to treat.

To IHACA

- 20) I will constantly evaluate the results of my Hope Alive counselling with interviews, questionnaires and other objective measures: I am prepared to allow others to examine these results.
- 21) Not attempting to counsel people beyond my capabilities, I will readily refer to or consult with somebody who is more expert than I am, whenever it is required.
- 22) I will help further the science of Hope Alive treatment. With the consent of my counsellees, I will collect research data, both clinical and research.

To my Family

- 23) I will avoid treating family or friends or more than two people at any time from the same group or church congregation.
- 24) I will attempt to fairly and quickly respond to demands for Hope Alive counselling, but I will balance the time and effort I spend counselling with time and love to meet the needs of my family.
- 25) I will include my friends and my family in appropriate aspects of my professional activities. I will request and appreciate their prayers and support.
- 26) If family or friends appear to need Hope Alive counselling, I will suggest they meet with their family physician, pastor or other professional and request a referral to a Hope Alive colleague. I will avoid trying to influence their counselling. Any pertinent concerns I will bring to the attention of my colleague with the awareness of the person I am concerned about, in a professional manner.

To my Self

- 27) I will expect appropriate, reasonable remuneration for Hope Alive group counselling according to guidelines established by IHACA or associates in my country.
- 28) I will charge each counsellee the same rate for the same counselling, but where necessary arrange for deferred payment depending on my counsellee's ability to pay.
- 29) I will maintain safe working conditions and protect myself and co-worker with liability and errors and omissions or malpractice insurance.
- 30) I will make and keep secure, proper clinical records.
- 31) I will not misrepresent my qualifications or advertise services I am not qualified to perform. I understand Mount Joy College certifies me solely to do group counselling for adults injured by childhood mistreatment and pregnancy loss.
- 32) I will avoid counselling people beyond my competence and training.
- 33) I will improve my scientific understanding and treatment techniques with continued training, reading, experience and corrective feed-back.

C. Prevention:

- 1) I will work as hard to prevent, as I do to treat, the problems engendered by childhood mistreatment and pregnancy losses. I will attempt to make my counselling unnecessary; do myself out of a job.
- 2) I recognize that each individual, regardless of their size, shape, sex, or form, is created by God. As long as they have the spirit of the human God gave them to be, from fertilization to death, they are a full person.
- 3) I will put extra effort into protecting children and others who cannot protect themselves.
- 4) I will uphold, encourage the natural family, composed of two committed, mated parents of the opposite sex with one or more children.
- 5) I will value the extended family and the contribution of every person regardless of maturity or intelligence, to the unit, strength, economy, integrity and mission of each family.

D.Honour: God, Mentors, Colleagues

- 1) Acknowledging that health and healing come from God, I will give credit where credit is due.
- 2) I will honour my supervisors, teachers and mentors and the program authors in word and deed.
- 3) If, because of my clinical work or research, I am honoured, I will accept the honour graciously but ensure that God is honoured first then share the honour with my colleagues and family. I will insist that I am not made into any type of guru or oracle, but suggest that those who honour me join with me in seeking the truth.

E. Joy:

- 1) I realise I am responding to an enormous epidemic of deeply damaged people and that I must work with the urgency springing from that necessity, but I anticipate I will enjoy my work.
- 2) When my work is well done and when I see lives changed, I will allow myself to experience joy and share that joy with God and with others.

Print Name: _____

Signed: _____ Dated: _____ (yyyy/mm/dd)

Witnessed: _____

Return Signed Form (keep copy for yourself) to your Area Director or Supervisor for forwarding or send directly to: Mt. Joy College, PO Box 27103, 750 Goldstream Ave. Victoria, B.C. V9B 5S4 CANADA