



## **ROCKY BAYOU BAPTIST COUNSELING MINISTRY**

### **Responsibilities of Accountability Partner, Policy Rationale & Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Responsibilities of the Accountability Partner**

Those who are willing to accept the privilege of being an accountability partner will have the following responsibilities:

1. To attend every counseling session with their partner(s).
2. To observe the counseling sessions in order to hold their partners accountable during the week for the homework assigned.
3. To come to the aid of their partner(s) in situations that arise during the week.
4. To give feedback to the counselor whenever something has been taught in a session that is not in line with what is being taught at the particular local church of their partners. This will alert the counselor to the potential conflict between the counsel given and the teaching of that local church.
5. To keep the local church's leadership (elders) updated on the progress of their partners.
6. To take over the routine discipleship of their partners when the counselor believes that the crisis is past.
7. To be the liaison to that local church when church discipline is indicated.
8. To grow in their faith and trust in God and the sufficiency of His Word as they observe counseling.
9. To gain understanding into the problems that people have so they will be able to help others with similar problems in the future.

#### **Rationale for this Policy**

Involvement in the ministry of a local church is vital to the growth of every believer as they seek to become more like Christ. Therefore, being a part of a local body of believers is very important to the counseling process. Regular attendance and involvement at the services of that local church is critical to the growth of a believer and, therefore, will be required.

The leadership of a local church is accountable to God for those who are under their care (Heb 13:17). A leader must be involved in the lives of those who are under their care. It is not the responsibility of Rocky Bayou Baptist to usurp the leadership and their responsibilities toward the sheep in their care. Therefore, someone from that local church leadership team must be involved in the counseling of the people under their care.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. What should I do when no one in leadership will come?**

**A.** Perhaps your leadership does not understand what you are asking and why this is important. If you haven't showed them this information, then that should be your first action. After that, if they still do not want to come, then they may have some suggestions for those that could be involved in their place. If there is no one willing to come, then you will be required to attend Rocky Bayou Baptist during the time that you are counseling.

**Q. My problem is too personal and I don't want an accountability partner from my church in the sessions with me. Can I still receive counseling?**

**A.** Yes, as long as you attend Rocky Bayou Baptist. But, if you do not want to attend Rocky, then no, you cannot. Our belief in what the Scriptures teach about the involvement of local church leadership and other believers of that church in the lives of each other as being a valuable resource for growth would mean that you would be depriving yourself of some of the most valuable resources God has provided toward your growth. That would not be in your best interest, or ours.

**Q. What happens if my partner cannot come to a session?**

**A.** It is understandable that God will, at times, providentially hinder someone from coming. In that case, then you should notify the Rocky Bayou secretary that your partner cannot come and plan on attending your session as usual. It is your responsibility to update your partner after the session.

However, it is not acceptable for that partner to miss multiple sessions. One of the responsibilities of your accountability partner is that they will attend every session with you. Repeated absences will need to be addressed and a satisfactory resolution reached in order to continue counseling.

**Q. What happens if our accountability partner is no longer willing to come?**

**A.** It will be your responsibility to find another accountability partner for your next session. You should not expect counseling to continue without a partner. You should also notify your counselor that the partner will not be able to continue being your partner.

**Q. Do I have to allow other observers into the counseling sessions?**

**A.** No, that is not a requirement in order to receive counsel. You are free to ask that observers not be a part of your counseling sessions. However, we ask that you consider this decision in light of the potential good that can be done by allowing observers into your sessions. If you are having trouble with this item, then please ask your counselor for further clarification.

If you have questions that have not been addressed, then please do not hesitate to contact Rocky Bayou Baptist and ask that someone help you with those questions.

I have read the above and understand my responsibilities as outlined and agree to abide by them.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to allow the presence of observers in my counseling session as outlined.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_