

Vernon J. Brant, MAPC

3Strand, Inc. Client Implied Consent Form

The counseling relationship works best when there is a clearly defined explanation of rights and responsibilities for each person. This frame helps to create the safety to take risks and the support to become empowered to change. As you (we) and I discuss working together, it's important for you to know a little bit about my background and general approach to counseling. This is because different counseling approaches exist and knowing what therapy will look like can help you make a decision regarding our work together. As a client, you have certain rights that are important for you to understand because your well-being is of utmost importance. If you feel uncomfortable with my approach, I can refer you to someone who might fit your expectations and needs better.

My Responsibility to You as Your Counselor

I. Confidentiality

Except for certain specific expectations described below, you have the absolute right to confidentiality of your counseling. I cannot and will not tell anyone else what is said during sessions, or that you are even a client, unless you provide written permission. Under the provisions of the Health Care Information Act of 1992, I may legally speak to another health care provider or member of your family about you without your consent, but I will not do so unless it is an emergency. I will always act to protect your privacy but will submit to your desire to share information if so directed. You may elect to have anyone join you during our sessions together.

You are also protected by the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This insures your confidentiality for all electronic transmission of information. Whenever I transmit information electronically, it must be done with special safeguards in place. If you communicate with me via email, please be aware the emails are not completely safeguarded and can be compromised.

The following are legal exceptions to your right to confidentiality. I will inform you of any time when I think I may exercise these exceptions.

1. If I have good reason to believe you may harm another person, I must attempt to inform that person and warn them of your intentions. I must also contact the authorities and have them protect the intended victim.
2. If I have good reason to believe you are abusing or neglecting a child or vulnerable adult, or if you provide information about someone else who is doing this, I must inform Child Protective Services within 48 hours and Adult Protective Services immediately.

3. If you are under the age of 18 and are having sex with someone 5 years older than you, or sex with a teacher or coach, I must report it to CPS even though consensual sex may occur after 16 years of age. You will be informed of my intentions prior to my action.
4. If I have good reason to believe you are in imminent danger of harming yourself, I may legally break confidentiality and call the authorities or local crisis team. I am not obligated to do this and will explore all other opportunities before acting. If after all other options have been exercised, and you are unwilling to take the steps to insure your safety, I will take appropriate action.
5. If you tell me of the behavior of another health care professional that informs me of:
 - a. Engaged in sexual contact with a patient, including yourself, or
 - b. Is impaired from practice in some manner of cognitive, emotional, behavioral, or health problemThen the law requires me to report this to the Virginia State Licensing Board and the Virginia Department of Health
6. For couples in counseling. If you or your partner decide to partake in individual sessions as part of the couple's therapy, information discussed during those sessions will be considered as part of the couple's therapy and will most likely be discussed during joint sessions. *Do not share information you wish to keep secret from your partner.* You will be reminded of this policy should it arise.

II. Record Keeping

I keep very brief records, noting only that we've met, any interventions that have taken place during the session, and assorted topics discussed. If you prefer I do not keep records, you must submit the request in writing and this request will be kept on file. This protects me from persecution and litigation. Under the Health Care Information Act of 1992, you have the right to a copy of your records at any time. You have the right to request I correct any errors made. Your record will be maintained in a secure location and will not be accessed by anyone else.

III. Diagnosis

As a Pastoral Counselor, I am not licensed by the state of Virginia, and thus not able to make formal diagnosis. Diagnoses are merely technical terms that describe a presenting issue and often time create a "label" the client is not able to shed. I do have access to the **DSM-V** and know how to use it. All mental health diagnosis come from this resource. If need be, we can discuss the characteristics of assorted conditions found in this resource and these discussions may prompt you to find a licensed professional.

IV. Other Rights

You have the right to ask questions about anything that happens during the counseling journey. I'm always willing to discuss how and why I reached a certain conclusion and proceeded in a certain manner. Please feel free to share your thoughts on things that might work better and be more helpful. You can ask me about my training for working with your concerns and can certainly ask for a referral if need be. You are free to leave and terminate counseling at any time.

V. Managed Health Care and Payment

In the state of Virginia, Pastoral Counselors are not licensed and thus not permitted to work with insurance companies and managed health care providers. Pastoral Counselors are also prohibited from charging a fee for services rendered. However, 3Strand, Inc. is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a donation is appreciated, but not mandatory. Should you donate to the organization, any amount above customary service will be deemed as a tax-deductible contribution. A record of your contribution will be provided after each donation.

My Training and Counseling Philosophy

I received my Masters in Pastoral Counseling & Coaching from Liberty University in 2017. My training and internship were done at Recovery for Life under the supervision of Dr. Paul Hardy. Dr. Hardy continues to act as my supervision accountability. I am registered with the American Association of Christian Counselors and am in good standing and remain current in the psychology profession by attending continuing education workshops and psychological conventions.

My approach to counseling is shaped by my own Christian worldview. Though I have no expectation that you share my beliefs, you have a right to know them. Christianity teaches that we are created to be in relationship with God and one another, but because of the brokenness of our world, our frustrated longings for relationship often result in various problems. In this sense, psychological problems, like all problems in our world, ultimately stem from our human brokenness. However, we cannot settle for simplistic connections between personal choices and psychological symptoms. Many aspects of our fallen world contribute to psychological problems, including historical, cultural, biological, psychosocial, personal, and emotional factors.

My orientation as a counselor tends to be "eclectic." In selecting treatment methods, I tend to draw ideas and techniques from several the major counseling approaches whose utility have been supported through research. However, I lean toward a Solution-Focused, Brief Therapy (SFBT) approach. This goal-directed collaborative approach to psychotherapeutic change is conducted through direct observation of clients' responses to a series of precisely constructed questions. SFBT focuses on addressing what clients want to achieve by exploring the

history and provenance of the issue(s). Questions and compliments are the primary tools of the SFBT approach, and I deliberately refrain from making interpretations. Instead, we'll focus on identifying your goals, generating a detailed description of what life will be like when the goal is accomplished, and the problem is either gone or coped with satisfactorily. To develop effective solutions, the counselor and client search diligently through the client's life experiences for exceptions to co-construct uniquely appropriate and effective solutions.

My approach to counseling frequently contains more than just coming to sessions and talking. Sometimes, we might develop projects or activities that you can do outside the session to further promote your healing. These projects and activities are called "Homework" and will prove to be beneficial to the process. These activities can be very helpful to insure the changes you experience in the sessions translate into your life outside of the session.

I have read the above and gone over the information with Vernon Brant, MAPC. I understand that I may ask him for further information or clarification at any time in treatment.

Signed,

Date: _____

I have reviewed this information with this client.

Date: _____

Vernon J. Brant, MAPC