

New Hope Recovery Ministries Basic Information Sheet

Name _____

Address _____ (please include zip code)

Phone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ Other Emergency #'s _____

If Joining the men's group, what phone number do you want on the calling list _____

Cell Provider _____

Email address _____

Year of birth _____

Marital Status: Single Married Separated Divorced How Long? _____

Spouse's name _____

Is spouse in a New Hope recovery group? _____

Children's Names & Birth Year: _____

Home Church _____

Approximate date you joined New Hope's recovery groups _____

Do you have a counselor? _____ Who? _____

How frequently do you see your counselor? _____

Legal Issues

Through research, experience and consultation with other ministries and legal counsel, we have developed the following policies for our recovery groups. If you have questions about how these might apply in your specific circumstances, please set up an appointment with the recovery director.

1. **Matters of legal consequence must not be discussed in group settings.** They belong in individual and couple counseling sessions with a pastor, a counselor or a lawyer. The reason is this: things shared with clergy, lawyers and counselors are protected while things spoken in a group are not. For example, if a man shares with his check-in group he did something illegal and is tried for that offense, group members could be forced to testify. This is a protection both for the offender and for group members as the first question on the stand would most likely require the witness to state he is in a sexual addiction recovery group with the accused. Examples of legal issues include but are not limited to the following:
 - **Sexual contact with minors including but not limited to any touching of private areas of either the minor or the adult**
 - **Cyber or phone sexual contact with minors.** (Police are constantly conducting stings in these arenas)
 - **Any issues of exposure or voyeurism (Flashing & Peeping)**
 - **Child pornography**
 - **Rape or any form of coerced sexual relations**
2. **Individuals with *current* legal issues are not permitted in the groups.** However, pastors and counselors can counsel with these individuals if they so desire. Again, this is a protection both for the individual and for others in the groups. Legal issues that have been resolved, i.e. prior convictions or previously tried offenses do not automatically prevent participation in the groups. However, they must be disclosed and evaluated prior to attending. Disclosure may require the individual to pass a polygraph exam before attending meetings. Failure to disclose will absolutely require a polygraph exam to attend groups and/or individual counseling.
3. **If legal issues come up in a group, we ask everyone to take the initiative to shut down the conversation.** Yes, it is important individuals share their struggles. However, they must not jeopardize others and must therefore deal with these issues in counseling. Do not feel like a “leader” must be the one to shut it down as it affects everyone, and the “leader” might not have picked up on the issue. Also, do not assume if something happened 10, 20 or even 30 years ago it is no longer an issue. There are few “Statutes of Limitation” in regards to the abuse of children.
4. You need to understand some legal issues require reporting and some do not. Some group leaders and members are “**Mandatory Reporters**” which means if they believe another individual, especially a minor, is in current danger or has already been legally harmed, they are required to report to appropriate authorities. Also, those who are not “Mandatory Reporters” can and often do report such issues.
5. Child pornography and voyeurism issues do not automatically require reporting. However, they are serious and have legal ramifications. Therefore, if this is part of your history you should discuss it individually with a pastor, a counselor or a lawyer and not with the group.
6. Most inappropriate sexual contact with a minor occurring before the perpetrator was 17 is not prosecutable, and therefore, falls under the umbrella of hidden shame that can and should be talked about in the group context.
7. If legal issues arise or exist in an individual’s history, leadership reserves the right to require a **polygraph exam** in order for individuals to remain in the group

Thank you for understanding our desire to protect all participants in our recovery ministry. If you have any questions about these guidelines or about how they apply in your specific situation, please call or schedule an appointment with the recovery director.

Acknowledgment Of Understanding

I understand that every attempt will be made to guard my anonymity and confidentiality in this group, but that it cannot be absolutely guaranteed in a group setting.

- I realize that the group coordinators cannot control the actions of others in the group.
- I realize that confidentiality is sometimes broken accidentally and without malice

I understand that group coordinators are morally and ethically obligated to discuss with other pastoral individuals if he/she observes any of the following behaviors. I also understand that this may lead to the breaking of confidentiality and/or perhaps intervention:

- I communicate an intention to kill myself
- I communicate an intention to harm another person.
- I reveal ongoing sexual or physical abuse.
- I exhibit an impaired mental state.
- I communicate involvement in criminal activity

I have been advised that the consequences for communicating the above types of information may include reports that will be made to the proper authorities – the Police, Suicide Units and Services to Children and Families, as well as to any potential victims. I further accept that if I am on probation and/or parole and I engage in wrongful behavior in violation of my parole/probation, part of my healing/recovery may include the need to notify the appropriate authorities.

I have read and am in agreement with the “Legal Issues” page in *New Hope For Sexual Integrity*. I have either talked through any questions I have with the recovery director or else have no legal issues as part of my struggle.

I also understand that group leaders reserve the right to discuss matters disclosed by group members for the purpose of receiving supervision and oversight. This oversight will occur in group supervision meetings held by the group coordinator and leaders.

I understand that this is a Christ-centered group, which integrates recovery tools with the Bible and prayer, and that all members may not be of my particular church background. I realize that the Bible may be discussed more (or less) than I would like it to be.

I realize that this is a support group, and NOT a therapy group. I understand that the coordinators are qualified by “life experience,” and not by professional training. The coordinators’ roles in this group are to create a climate where healing may occur, to support my personal work towards recovery, and to share his/her own experience, strength, and hope. I also realize that I am personally responsible for my own recovery.

Signed _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Pastoral Counseling Policy

Sound Biblical Counsel and compassionate shepherd care are some of the blessings God has given his people in the persons of pastors, teachers and other church leaders. We thank God with you that these resources are available as part of the ministry of New Hope Fellowship.

The pastoral counsel you may receive is provided free of charge, except for occasional material costs, as an outreach ministry of New Hope Fellowship. You are of course welcome and encouraged to donate back to the ministry so these services can continue to be available for others. The counsel is pastoral in nature, intended to provide you with sound Biblical instruction and spiritual direction for the issues of life. The counsel you receive is not intended to be professional mental health care or legal counsel. The counselor you speak with has not received specialized training in medicine, psychology, psychiatry, or law.

New Hope Fellowship will honor the principle of disclosure of information only on a “need to know” basis. It is the policy of New Hope Fellowship to report to appropriate persons and legal authorities: evidence of child abuse, evidence of elder or dependent adult abuse, threat of physical harm to another, threat of self-inflicted physical harm, and information which poses a threat of harm to the congregation and/or ministry of New Hope Fellowship.

As consideration for giving the pastoral care counseling you are requesting, New Hope Fellowship and you agree that for any dispute arising out of the care relationship between you and New Hope Fellowship and any employee, agent, or volunteer of New Hope Fellowship, the exclusive forum for resolving the dispute shall be the mediation and conciliation, and if necessary arbitration, services of a mutually agreed upon Christian mediator/arbitrator. Any resulting arbitration is mutually agreed to be binding on all parties.

I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by the above stated policies of New Hope Fellowship. In addition, I authorize release of information according to these same policies.

Date _____ Signed: _____

Print Name: _____