



PO Box 5781, Spartanburg SC, 29304 – 864-583-7606

STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION

These policies apply to all meetings with: a leader, speaking/meeting with a participant or speaking/confessing during a support group setting.

Attractions

If you are attracted (or feel drawn to, emotionally or physically/sexually) to anyone within HFW at any time, we ask that you keep this private, between you and your leader within HFW, for the purposes of accountability, and to talk about the situation. Do not tell the person to whom you are attracted, whether it be a leader or a group member. If you are attracted to a leader, talk to another leader within Hope for Wholeness, for the purposes of accountability and to talk about the situation.

Confidentiality Standards for Group Involvement (DOES NOT APPLY TO YOUTH—SEE SEPARATE YOUTH SECTION)

Persons participating in Hope for Wholeness are not obligated to reveal their full name, phone number, where they live, or where they work to participants within HFW. All persons have a right to maintain whatever level of anonymity they choose.

It is essential that every person who comes to Hope for Wholeness feels that neither his or her involvement with the program nor anything he or she shares at a meeting will ever be known outside the confines of the group.

The primary requirements of confidentiality are:

A person's involvement in Hope for Wholeness should never be mentioned to anyone outside the group.

Nothing that is shared in the group should be repeated outside the group.

The problems that may occur would probably be due to carelessness. Also, where there may not be a real breach of confidentiality, problems could be caused if a person believed that his or her anonymity could be compromised. Please read the following guidelines so you do not become the source of any problems:

Be especially sensitive with newcomers. For several weeks, do not ask newcomers their phone numbers, where they work, etc. If they want to volunteer it, that is fine. After several weeks you can assume that they will be comfortable either providing the information you requested or telling you that they prefer not to give it.

If you call another group member at home or at work, never leave a message saying something such as, "Tell them Mike from Hope for Wholeness called." Just tell them Mike called. If you are asked to identify yourself further, we believe it is honest to say that you are in a Bible study together.

If you are in a public place and meet fellow group members, please be sensitive about approaching them. This

may cause them to feel awkward in trying to explain your relationship.

Discussions

We ask that you not speak in provocative terms when talking about a situation. We certainly allow words like “sex” or “masturbation,” but we do not want to go into great detail of sexual acts. We also ask that cursing not be a part of any type of dialogue. In explanation of a “fall,” it is possible, either in one-on-one or in a group setting, that you may be telling of a particular circumstance and you feel you need to tell the particular details or description of the act. Understand that the leader may stop you and ask you to be less graphic in your description. There may also be times when the leader may feel you are being overly vague and ask you for more details, to not have you minimize the seriousness of the act or fall. Regardless, grace will be given to you in the situation.

Donations

Please consider giving a donation above and beyond the cost of your workbook to the local ministry you are participating in. Also please consider being a financial partner with Hope for Wholeness. Your financial support will help change the lives of hundreds of people seeking help. Donations made are tax deductible.

Dress Code for Men and Women

This policy is in place to reduce provocative dressing which would create temptation for many. This policy applies to all seasons and temperatures of the year and all meetings, to include the following: one on one appointments with Support Group Leader, meetings between group members (within given guidelines), support group meetings, conferences, outings, etc.

Shirts: No skin tight-fitting shirts, tank tops, sleeveless shirts, halter tops, or showing any chest/cleavage. No shorts, regardless of length. See through: no clothing that is too thin, causing a transparent affect.

For ladies: If you choose to wear a skirt, length is to be no shorter than knee length.

Tears or holes: We ask that clothing not have large tears or holes in it.

Tight fitting/ loose: Clothing should not be tight or too loose (as to fall down below waist).

Expectations

Results for those seeking change in their life are different for everyone. To achieve true lasting change, you must be serious and dedicated, most importantly in your relationship with Christ. True and lasting freedom for all those who earnestly seek after Christ is a reality. What freedom looks like will often be different for each person. We are patient with all those who are on a journey of discovery that may not have fully decided on their path.

Homework and Participation

There will need to be participation involved. Groups do require a certain amount of homework. Dedicated attendance and homework cannot be enforced, however, we strongly encourage both. You will only get out of the Hope for Wholeness Program what you are willing to put forth in your own efforts.

Mannerisms

We understand that there are conscious and unconscious mannerisms that may have been a part of your past, or even part of your current mindset. For the majority, individuals coming to Hope for Wholeness have a desire to have an atmosphere where “change” is encouraged and where old patterns are put aside. We ask that you refrain from any overtly seductive mannerisms, for your participation in this ministry.

Moral Standards for Support Groups (DOES NOT APPLY TO YOUTH—SEE SEPERATE YOUTH SECTION)

You have come to Hope for Wholeness because you struggle with a sexual or relational problem. For most, this means that you struggle with sexual temptations. Some of you may still be at the point at which you “fall” sexually (i.e., give in to sexual temptation; “act out”). We are here to deal with that. Helping you in such a situation is a normal part of our ministry.

However, there are sexual falls that are not a normal part of our ministry. These are falls between members of our support groups. Any inappropriate behavior among members can damage and even destroy the group. Trust is lost. Hope can become replaced with cynicism. The innocent are betrayed. The reputation of the ministry, and thus its ability to help others, can be damaged. For those reasons, we have established rules that are aimed at preventing sexual falls among group members, or if they do occur, minimizing the damage that they will cause to the individuals and to the group.

The rules are as follows:

No group members are to interact one-on-one or in groups, without a HFW leader present.

Meetings are allowed, when planned with another HFW leader. This has to be an event that is publicized to all members with an invitation for any to attend.

You are asked that when at group—before group, during breaks, sitting in your seat, and after group—to not gravitate to the same person, but interact with everyone and not be exclusive.

Carpooling is NOT permitted, unless special permission is given by the Coordinator.

Phone calls, text messaging, or emails between group members are not to be a daily event. This person is not to be your new best friend but a friend that you have something in common with. This commonality, however, is a danger. We ask that you NOT speak of any type of fall including masturbation, pornography, sexual desires, attractions, etc. This friend relationship is NOT to be exclusive and cannot be a time to debrief; this is what group is for. It is our desire to help you in establishing new, healthy relationships and to not create an ex-gay subculture.

You must report, as soon as possible, to your group leader, any of the following:

A sexual fall with another group member, or any inappropriate behavior with another group member. (We define inappropriate behavior very simply as any behavior that you would not want most other Christians to witness.)

Going with another group member to gay bars or other places where homosexual contacts are made.

An approach made to you by another group member to engage in inappropriate behavior or to go to a homosexual contact place.

Any inappropriate involvement among other group members that you hear about.

You must be willing to give names and allow us to use your name as the one reporting the offense.

If you fall, be willing to be an active part of reconciliation. This most likely would involve public confession to the group, and one-on-one regular accountability to the leader on your journey.

Treatment of Support Group Members - *From the Governing Policies of Hope for Wholeness.*

Governing Board Policy 2.1 - With respect to group members or potential group members, the President shall not cause or allow conditions, procedures, or decisions which are unsafe, undignified, unnecessarily intrusive, unbiblical, which fail to provide appropriate confidentiality or privacy, or which fail to hold them accountable.

Participants should contact the Hope for Wholeness Network, if they believe that Governing Board Policy 2.1 is being violated by: 1. A failure to provide appropriate confidentiality or privacy. 2. Use methods of collecting, reviewing, transmitting, or storing group member information that fail to protect against improper access to the material elicited. 3. Fail to provide appropriate accessibility and privacy for meetings. 4. Fail to establish with group members a clear understanding of what may be expected and what may not be expected from the service offered. 5. Fail to inform group members of this policy, or to provide a way for persons to be heard who believe they have not been accorded a reasonable interpretation of their protections under this policy.

We are here for you

Understand that regardless of these policies, we are here for you. These are guidelines that we must put in place, to assure a safe place for everyone involved. Regardless of where you are in your journey, know that we care for you and are here to stand beside you. We are here, ready to help as much as we are able. Remember that God is your true source, and He is using the leadership of Hope for Wholeness to assist you and to speak truth and healing into your life. Help us to help you.

Where to turn if you have concerns

We would hope that you would be able to handle any concerns you have within the local structure of the Hope for Wholeness program. However, if you feel that the Governing Board Policy 2.1 has not been upheld or your situation needs special attention, you may contact the President of Hope for Wholeness at: 864-583-7606; support@hopeforwholeness.org; PO Box 5781, Spartanburg, SC 29304; www.hopeforwholeness.org.